



Dr. Paul Brennan

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Lyon, France

What proportion of oropharynx cancers are caused by HPV, and can we use HPV antibodies to identify them early?

Friday
October 3, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 pm

The Hospital for Sick Children
CDIU Multimedia Theatre
Room 4132, 4th Floor, Elm Elevators
555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON

Abstract:

Oropharynx cancers are increasing in many parts of the world and are set to become the leading HPV associated cancer in North America by 2020. HPV16 E6 antibodies appear to be a sensitive and specific marker for HPV associated oropharynx cancer and can be used to estimate the proportion of oropharynx cancers caused by HPV in different populations. They also appear to be present up to 15 years before the onset of clinical symptoms, proving a possible biomarker for accurate identification of individuals at very high risk of developing this cancer. Finally, they are also potentially a strong marker of good clinical response to treatment and survival.

Profile:

Paul Brennan, PhD, is the Head of the Genetics Section of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO), Lyon, France. The research focus of his group has two primary aims (i) identifying cancer predisposition genes through either genotyping or sequencing of very large numbers of cases and controls, and (ii) using biomarkers to help identify non-genetic risk factors for cancer, and even help identify early stage cancers. His group works with colleagues in many different parts of the world, with active field work studies underway in central and eastern Europe, central and south-east Asia, and Latin America.

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