

NHS TRIAL OF THE GALLERI BLOOD TEST FOR PRESYMPTOMATIC DETECTION OF CANCER

Cancer is one of the major causes of mortality. On September 13th, the National Health Service in the United Kingdom launched a [clinical trial](#) of a novel blood test for the presymptomatic detection of more than 50 types of cancer. The trial will include 140,000 volunteers between 50 and 77 years of age. This so-called Galleri test is based on detection of tumour-specific epigenetic changes by whole-genome bisulphite sequencing of cell-free DNA fragments that leak from tumours into the blood circulation, in combination with machine learning.

A clinical validation of the test was published by Klein et al. in the September 2021 issue of [Annals of Oncology](#). The test had a high specificity and was accurate for predicting the cancer signal of origin for a wide variety of cancer types.

Health implications may be huge because most cancers would be detectable at a very early stage when therapeutic interventions can be less aggressive and have a higher chance of being successful. Initial results are expected in 2023.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/09/nhs-launches-world-first-trial-for-new-cancer-test/>
[https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534\(21\)02046-9/fulltext](https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534(21)02046-9/fulltext)