

PERSONALISED MEDICINE FOR SARCOMA PATIENTS

SARCOMAS: Are cancers of bone, muscle and other soft tissue arising more commonly in children and young adults. There are more than 70 different kinds of sarcomas and although most of these can be cured with conventional treatment, unfortunately this is not always the case.

GENOMIC BASED TREATMENTS: Over the last 2 decades there have been unprecedented advances in the ability of scientists to examine the human genome. This particularly applies to cancer, which arises from gene mutations. We have a greater ability to determine how cancer starts, spreads and what drugs it might be sensitive to. The way we look at cancer is changing. Rather than being associated with a particular organ or tissue like breast or skin, cancers are now being classified according to their specific genetic mutations, which can lead to more precise or personalised treatments.

RESEARCH SCIENTISTS: Sponsored by “Sock it to Sarcoma!” have uncovered new gene variants which are responsible for increased cancer risk and can be inherited; novel genes responsible for the spread and metastasis of sarcomas, which may lead to new drug targets; and have recently completed a pilot study of genetically determined sensitivity of sarcoma to a new generation of drugs. This study will be expanded and provide more information earlier in the disease.

DOCTORS: Will be able to plan more precise, individualised treatments for patients and identify drug resistance avoiding unnecessary drugs and their complications.

PATIENTS: Our aim is to provide more informed screening, and more accurate treatments with fewer side effects and a greater chance of a cure