

Problem

Ulster University boffins have made a world breakthrough in the fight against pancreatic cancer, it emerged today. A team of researchers has developed a pioneering treatment which could significantly increase survival rates. Initial tests show that the new treatment leads to a five-fold reduction in tumour size.

By injecting tumours with tiny oxygen-filled microbubbles coated with an inactive drug, the scientists used ultrasound to activate the treatment – as well as releasing the oxygen to make the drug work even more effectively on tumours.

It is the first treatment breakthrough in more than 40 years. Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate – just 4%.

Globally, more than 200 000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer every year. Professor John Callan, who led the research, said they had developed a ‘minimally invasive’ treatment and a ‘highly targeted’ therapy.

Posted on CoolFM news on 17 November 2016

Below are two tables with data for Northern Ireland.

Table 1: Incidence of pancreatic cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2004–2013

Incidence Trends										
YEAR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Males	77	100	104	108	112	113	91	95	124	101
Females	83	81	102	85	112	98	105	118	131	126
Both	160	181	206	193	224	211	196	213	255	227

Table 2: Five year pancreatic cancer survival rate by gender

Diagnosed 2004–2008			
Time since diagnosis	Male	Female	Both sexes
6 months	32.4%	28.8%	30.5%
1 year	17.2%	16.2%	16.6%
5 years	5.1%	5.3%	5.0%

You can find this information on pancreatic cancer at www.qub.ac.uk

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Pancreatic Cancer (Continued)



Look at the tables, published by Queen's University Belfast.

(1) Is pancreatic cancer a growing problem in Northern Ireland?

(2) Cool FM News reported the following:



'Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate – just 4%'.

Based on all the information you have, do you think that the statement is true?

(3) How many men and how many women survived pancreatic cancer between 2004 and 2008, inclusive, less than a year after being diagnosed?

