UK NSC recommendation on stomach cancer screening in adults

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend introducing a national screening programme for stomach cancer.

Around 7,000 people are diagnosed with stomach cancer each year in the UK.

Things that are believed to cause stomach cancers are diets high in salt and preservatives, smoking, and infections caused by a particular type of bacteria.

A screening programme would be worthwhile if it could detect the cancer before it has started to spread. This would improve the currently poor survival rates.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

- as of yet there is no initial test that is both reliable and harmless, and therefore which can be used on everybody
- there are diagnostic tests that can confirm the presence of cancer, but they are too harmful and invasive to be used on everybody as the first test
- it is not known how and when to treat suspicious signs of cancer

The UK NSC regularly reviews its recommendations on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available.

To find out more about the UK NSC’s stomach cancer screening in adults recommendation, please visit:

http://legacy.screening.nhs.uk/stomachcancer