

New PSMA-PET -imaging reinforces Docrates Cancer Center's position as a forerunner in prostate cancer diagnostics

Starting this week, Docrates Cancer Center is performing PET (positron emission tomography) CT scanning of prostate cancer patients using a new radiopharmaceutical, PSMA. The new tracer is particularly sensitive in identifying post-operative or post-radiotherapy recurrences of prostate cancer at very low PSA-levels, as well as the dissemination of early prostate cancer to lymph nodes, etc. The new tracer enables a more accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer. This means that the treatment can be better tailored using methods such as modern radiotherapy, promoting a good quality of life. Being able to accurately locate the cancer is also very important for the surgeon, e.g. when planning a prostatectomy.

The PSMA radiopharmaceutical detects prostate cancer in the body

PSMA stands for Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen. The tracer's function is based on the fact that counterparts of this molecule are found in 98% of prostate cancer cell membranes. The new tracer differs remarkably from previous tracers. Prostate cancer diagnosis used to be based on the general energy metabolism of cancer cells, metabolism of bone cells in metastases or increased prostate cancer cell membrane synthesis. PSMA identifies the molecule present in prostate cancer cell membranes and, thus, gives important additional information about the situation and stage of the prostate cancer.

– The PSMA-tracer can detect an active disease at clearly lower PSA-values compared with, for example, F-18 choline, which is widely used for the diagnosis of prostate cancer. PSMA is an excellent addition to our existing tracers for prostate cancer. According to a number of preliminary clinical studies, it is the most sensitive tracer for showing where prostate cancer is located in the body. It detects the recurrence and spreading of prostate cancer at very low PSA-values and helps to assess the aggressiveness and severity of the cancer, explains Kalevi Kairemo, Chief Physician of Molecular Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine at Docrates Cancer Center.

Better and more versatile treatment for prostate cancer patients – not forgetting the quality of life

The traditional methods used for the diagnosis of prostate cancer, such as needle biopsy under ultrasound guidance, are inexact and challenging to perform. For optimal treatment planning of cancer it is essential to establish an accurate diagnosis of the stage and aggressiveness of the disease. For years now, Docrates Cancer Center has been making groundbreaking contributions to the development of diagnosis methods, such as accurate targeting of prostate biopsies on the basis of MRI-imaging, and staging the disease using PET-CT scans using several different tracers. Docrates has Finland's widest range of tracers in routine use with PET-diagnosis. The PSMA-radiopharmaceutical is the latest addition to this range, being the ninth PET-radiopharmaceutical product in clinical use at Docrates.



PRESS RELEASE 8 October 2015

– PSMA does not make other tracers or other prostate cancer diagnostic methods unnecessary, but it substantially adds to our understanding of the stage and activity of prostate cancer. This is important when we are planning the best possible treatment for the patient. Now we can better choose the most suitable treatment for each patient and use the potential of modern radiotherapy to a greater extent, as we know the exact location of the cancer. According to our experience, what this treatment strategy at its best means for the patient, is the avoidance of extensive adverse health effects and the maintenance of a good quality of life, says specialist in oncology and radiotherapy, Dr. Timo Joensuu.

More information and interview requests:

Pauliina Lajunen, Marketing and Communications Director, Docrates Cancer Center,
pauliina.lajunen@docrates.com, +358 50 5001838

Kalevi Kairemo, Chief Physician of Molecular Radiotherapy & Nuclear Medicine, Docrates Cancer Center;
visiting professor, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center , kalevi.kairemo@docrates.com

Docrates is a Finnish-owned, international hospital in Helsinki specialising in cancer treatment. We provide services for cancer patients throughout the treatment chain, from diagnosis to post-treatment follow-up. After the diagnosis and imaging, treatment can be planned and initiated without delay. Our unique concept attracts patients from all over the world. Together with our network of leading clinical experts, we provide state-of-the-art cancer therapies in line with our philosophy. So far, we have treated patients from over 45 countries and provided treatment for nearly 30 different types of cancer. We are experiencing strong international growth. www.docrates.com.