# England Launches Cancer Vaccine Trials Using mRNA Technology



Thousands of cancer patients in England could soon participate in trials for personalised vaccines aimed at treating cancer. The initiative, involving 30 hospitals, is part of the NHS Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad, which utilizes mRNA technology found in COVID-19 vaccines.

Elliot Pfebve, 55, from England, is the first patient to receive such a vaccine for bowel cancer. After undergoing surgery and chemotherapy, tests showed remnants of cancerous DNA in his bloodstream, making him a candidate for the trial. Pfebve received the vaccine at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, developed by BioNTech.

Cancer vaccines function by instructing the immune system to target specific cancer mutations identified from a patient's tumor. This personalized approach aims to reduce cancer recurrence by eliminating lingering cancer cells. The trial aims to recruit over 200 patients across the UK, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Sweden, and is projected to conclude by 2027.

NHS England Chief Executive Amanda Pritchard and Professor Peter Johnson, NHS National Clinical Director for Cancer, have praised the trials as a significant step in cancer treatment, potentially offering a new option for patients.