# NHS Launches Groundbreaking Trials for Personalised Cancer Vaccine



**Thousands of NHS Patients to Trial New Personalised Cancer Vaccine**

NHS England has commenced trials for a new personalised cancer vaccine, marking a significant advancement in cancer treatment. Elliot Pfebve, a 55-year-old lecturer diagnosed with bowel cancer, became the first patient in England to receive this vaccine on May 31, 2024. Pfebve was treated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham after having a 30cm tumour removed and undergoing chemotherapy.

The vaccine, developed using mRNA technology by BioNTech and Genentech, targets specific mutations in individual patients' tumours. Over the next year, thousands more patients are expected to join the trials through NHS England's Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad, which has already enrolled dozens of participants. Currently, 30 hospitals in England are involved in the initiative.

The vaccine aims to stimulate patients' immune systems to recognize and destroy remaining cancer cells post-surgery, potentially preventing the disease’s recurrence. This effort is part of a broader initiative that may expand to other cancers, such as pancreatic and lung cancers.

Professor Peter Johnson, NHS's national clinical director for cancer, noted the potential for these vaccines to ward off cancer recurrence. Amanda Pritchard, NHS England's chief executive, described the vaccination as a "landmark moment," highlighting the possible impact on improving cancer survival rates.

These trials, if successful, could significantly change future cancer treatment, offering personalized solutions to prevent cancer from returning, as emphasized by experts from Cancer Research UK and other oncologists involved in the study.