# NHS launches significant vaccine trial to combat advanced skin cancer



The National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom has commenced a new phase in its fight against advanced skin cancer with the launch of a significant vaccine trial. This initiative is part of the NHS's Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP), a programme that aims to accelerate access to mRNA vaccine clinical trials for various forms of cancer, including melanoma, which is known as the most severe type of skin cancer.

Reportedly expanding on its previous successes with personalized bowel cancer vaccines, the CVLP now seeks to include patients with advanced melanoma. This represents a crucial advancement in cancer treatment, potentially offering new avenues of hope for those afflicted with this serious illness.

The CVLP aims to provide personalized cancer treatments to up to 10,000 patients in England by 2030. The initiative demonstrates the NHS's ongoing commitment to pioneering innovative therapies as well as improving patient outcomes across the country.

The new melanoma vaccine, dubbed iSCIB1+ (Immunobody), is designed to assist the immune system in recognising cancer cells, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of existing immunotherapy treatments. The aim is for the vaccine to help the body not only attack and eliminate cancer cells but also "remember" them, which would help prevent recurrence of the disease.

Clinical trials for this vaccine involve a needle-free injection into the skin or muscle, with hopes of expanding participation in these trials by October. Melanoma is reported to be the fifth most common cancer in the UK, accounting for around 4% of all new cancer cases.

NHS national cancer director, Professor Peter Johnson, spoke about the potential of cancer vaccines to transform care for patients, stating, “Skin cancer can have a devastating impact... it’s incredibly exciting that the NHS is expanding its world-leading programme so more patients with different types of cancer could benefit from the development of new vaccines."

Among those involved in the trials is Paul Thomas, a 63-year-old from New Milton, Hampshire. Having been diagnosed with advanced skin cancer in 2017, Thomas has faced multiple recurrences of the disease following treatment. He was enrolled in the SCOPE skin cancer vaccine trial, which is now integrated into the CVLP. Reflecting on his experience, he remarked, “I feel so lucky to be put on the trial... Since I’ve been on it, my tumours have all shrunk,” expressing optimism for potential complete eradication of his cancer.

Dr Nermeen Varawalla, chief medical officer at Scancell, commented on the potential impact of cancer vaccines in treatment, highlighting that their recent clinical data demonstrates strong efficacy and considerable long-term survival benefits for patients with advanced metastatic melanoma.

Additionally, Susanna Daniels, chief executive of Melanoma Focus, noted the increasing prevalence of melanoma in the UK and expressed support for the innovative treatments being developed. “The use of vaccines to treat melanoma is an exciting development,” she said, also mentioning the availability of resources like the Melanoma TrialFinder to help eligible patients locate trial centres.

The ongoing development of these cancer vaccines has also caught the attention of political leaders, with Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer emphasising the life-saving nature of such innovations and expressing a desire to see further development of world-leading treatments in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/04/skin-cancer-patients-fast-tracked-access-revolutionary-nhs-cancer-vaccine-trial/> - This URL supports the claim about the NHS launching a new phase in its fight against advanced skin cancer through the Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP) and the introduction of a new melanoma vaccine trial.
* <https://www.england.nhs.uk/cancer/nhs-cancer-vaccine-launch-pad/> - This URL corroborates the information about the CVLP aiming to accelerate access to mRNA vaccine clinical trials for various cancers and its goal to provide personalized treatments to up to 10,000 patients by 2030.
* <https://leedscrf.nihr.ac.uk/first-patient-recruited-for-novel-melanoma-vaccine-trial/> - This URL supports the claim about clinical trials for melanoma vaccines being conducted in the UK, highlighting the use of personalized mRNA vaccines in combination with standard immunotherapy treatments.
* <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/melanoma> - Unfortunately, this URL is not present in the search results, but it typically provides information about melanoma being the fifth most common cancer in the UK, which supports the article's claim.
* <https://www.scancell.com/> - This URL is not provided in the search results, but it would typically offer more information about Scancell's involvement in cancer vaccine development, supporting Dr. Nermeen Varawalla's comments on their clinical data.