

WA Gynaecologic Oncology Biospecimen Bank (Biobank)

Research overview

The Biobank was established in January 2013 to create a repository of biospecimens with the specific purpose to define the clinico-pathological, molecular and therapeutic factors impacting on morbidity and mortality of gynaecologic cancer patients presenting to the Western Australian Gynaecologic Cancer Service at King Edward Memorial Hospital, St John of God Hospitals (Subiaco and Murdoch) and Hollywood Private Hospital.

The total number of subjects recruited from 1 Jan 2013 to 30 Jun 2015 is 2479. The Women and Newborn Health Service recruited 872 patients (35%). From the 2396 pathology reports obtained we found that the group of patients who present with benign disease is larger than expected (55%). The proportion of malignant cases is larger at the WNHS (55% of the total recruited through the WNHS) compared to SJOG Health Care (27% of the total recruited through the SJOG).

Two research projects have commenced using biospecimens from the Biobank;

1. Correlation of immunohistochemical markers of epithelial mesenchymal transition with tumour morphology in squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva and high grade vulval dysplasia (SJGHC HREC Ethics ref No: 788)
2. Targeting TOR signalling in human ovarian cancer (SJGHC HREC Ethics ref No: 771)

Our thanks to Sanela Bilic for her hard work as the Biobank Coordinator.



THE TEAM

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