

CONFIDENTIAL FINAL DRAFT

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UP TO HALF OF DEATHS IN MEN WITH PROSTATE CANCER ARE DIRECTLY DUE TO THE DISEASE

Up to half the number of men with prostate cancer who die do so as a direct result of the disease, rather than from other causes according to a new study presented at the National Cancer Intelligence Network conference (Wednesday).

Researchers from King's College London looked at 50,066 men with prostate cancer in the Thames Cancer Registry between 1997 and 2007.

Of this group, 20,181 died during the 10 years. And, of these deaths, 49 per cent were recorded as being due to the cancer itself. According to the study twelve per cent of deaths were caused by other cancers, 17 per cent from heart disease, 8 per cent were from pneumonia and 13 per cent were due to other causes.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in UK men, after lung cancer. Every year around 37,000 men are diagnosed and over 10,100 men die from the disease.

Professor Henrik Moller, study author from King's College London and head of analysis and research at the NCIN, said: "Our data show that a high proportion of men with prostate cancer die from the cancer. Our findings challenge the commonly held view that most men with prostate cancer will die with the disease rather than from it."

Simon Chowdhury, study author and consultant oncologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This confirms that prostate cancer is a major cause of

morbidity and mortality for a large number of men and the importance of ongoing and future research into this area.”

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For media enquiries please contact Laura Dibb on 020 3469 8051/8300 or, out-of-hours, the duty press officer on 07050 264 059.

Notes to Editors:

King's College London

King's College London is one of the top 25 universities in the world (*Times Higher Education* 2009) and the fourth oldest in England. A research-led university based in the heart of London, King's has nearly 23,000 students (of whom more than 8,600 are graduate students) from nearly 140 countries, and some 5,500 employees. King's is in the second phase of a £1 billion redevelopment programme which is transforming its estate.

King's has an outstanding reputation for providing world-class teaching and cutting-edge research. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise for British universities, 23 departments were ranked in the top quartile of British universities; over half of our academic staff work in departments that are in the top 10 per cent in the UK in their field and can thus be classed as world leading. The College is in the top seven UK universities for research earnings and has an overall annual income of nearly £450 million.

About the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN)

- The NCIN was established in June 2008 and its remit is to coordinate the collection, analysis and publication of comparative national statistics on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for all types of cancer
- As part of the National Cancer Research Institute, the NCIN aims to promote efficient and effective data collection at each stage of the cancer journey
- Patient care will be monitored by the NCIN through expert analyses of up-to-date statistics
- The NCIN will drive improvements in the standards of care and clinical outcomes through exploiting data
- The NCIN will support audit and research programmes by providing cancer information
- Visit www.ncin.org.uk for more information