

MEDIA RELEASE

Early research shows new blood test can help predict testicular cancer recurrence

New research findings were reported today from the CLIMATE study (ANZUP 1906), led by the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) in collaboration with WEHI and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. The findings reveal a simple blood test (miRNA), which evaluates a protein commonly found in testicular cancer can help predict which people affected by early-stage testicular cancer are most likely to have their cancer return.¹

Those diagnosed with stage 1 testicular germ cell tumour are often treated with surgery alone and then closely monitored through active surveillance.² While most will have strong long-term outcomes, around one in four people will see their cancer return within five years.^{2,3} This ongoing uncertainty highlights the need to improve how relapse risk is identified.¹

The CLIMATE study investigated a blood-based marker called miR-371, which is released into the bloodstream by testicular cancer cells.¹ The study tested whether miR-371 could detect tiny amounts of remaining cancer after surgical removal of the testicle.¹

Results from CLIMATE were presented at today's ASCO Genitourinary Cancers Symposium in San Francisco.

Associate Professor Ben Tran, CLIMATE study investigator says, "These early findings suggest that this blood test could become a valuable tool to personalise care for those affected by early-stage testicular cancer. In future, we hope it will help doctors identify patients who could benefit from early additional treatment, while sparing others from unnecessary therapy." Associate Professor Tran is also a Senior Research Fellow at WEHI and Medical Oncologist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Testicular cancer is the second most common cancer in Australian men aged 20 to 39 excluding [non-melanoma skin cancer](#).⁴ In 2025, an estimated 1,040 new cases were diagnosed, with an average age of 36 years old.⁴ Although survival rates are relatively high, the diagnosis can have a lasting impact.⁴

Research shows almost one in three people who have had testicular cancer continue to fear their cancer returning even 11 years after diagnosis.⁵ This fear is closely linked with higher levels of stress and anxiety and can be intensified by long-term side effects such as nerve damage, fatigue and other ongoing physical symptoms.⁵ Many people also experience concerns about fertility and identity following treatment.⁵ Together, these challenges can significantly affect quality of life, highlighting the need for ongoing support.⁵

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group CEO, Samantha Oakes says, "Our mission at ANZUP is to improve the lives of people affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile and prostate cancers, as the leading non-for-profit research charity funding multidisciplinary collaborative clinical trials for these '*Below the Belt*' cancers.



Since our inception in 2008, ANZUP has funded 35 *Below the Belt* cancer trials across 772 global sites providing over 10,000 participants access to innovative clinical trials.”

“We are proud to showcase our CLIMATE research on an international stage. Although these are early results, miR-371 performed better than the predictive tools that are currently available. With further validation, this test could add a valuable tool to inform the management of early-stage testicular cancer.”

Peter Mac was also one of 14 recruitment sites across Australia and New Zealand, and conducted the analysis of blood samples for the CLIMATE study.

To learn more about ANZUP’s mission to improve the lives of those affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile and prostate cancers, visit anzup.org.au. Donate to Below the Belt research today.

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Issued on behalf of Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group by HAVAS Red. For further information, please contact:

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About ANZUP

ANZUP is the leading cancer-cooperative clinical trials group that brings together all of the professional disciplines and groups involved in researching and treating urogenital cancers and conduct high quality cancer research. ANZUP’s mission is to improve the lives of people affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile and prostate cancers towards our vision of living life without fear of cancer. ANZUP identifies gaps in evidence and areas of clinical need, collaborates with the best clinicians and researchers in genitourinary cancer and communicates frequently and effectively with the broader community along the way. ANZUP receives valuable infrastructure support from the Australian Government through Cancer Australia.

About CLIMATE Study (ANZUP 1906)

CLIMATE (ANZUP 1906) is a trial led by ANZUP Cancer Trials Group in partnership with Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. CLIMATE enrolled 200 patients from 2021 to 2025 across 12 sites in Australia and New Zealand. Patients were aged >18, with histologically confirmed CS1 TGCT, no evidence of metastases and planned for AS, were enrolled within 6w post-orch. Clinical and outcome data were recorded in iTestis, Australia’s TGCT registry.

About [WEHI](#) (formerly known as the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research)

WEHI is where brilliant minds collaborate and innovate to make life-changing scientific discoveries that help people live healthier for longer. Our medical researchers have been serving the community for more than 100 years, making transformative discoveries in cancer, infection and immunity, and lifelong health. At WEHI, we are brighter together.

About Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre is a world leading cancer research, education and treatment centre and Australia’s only public health service dedicated to caring for people affected by cancer.

References

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