

SONNET video transcription

Hello. We'd like to tell you about the SONNET study. If you have already gone through the menopause and then have bleeding from your vagina, doctors will usually do tests to check for womb cancer, also called endometrial or uterine cancer. These tests can include an internal ultrasound scan, which is a scan done with a probe placed in the vagina, a hysteroscopy, which is a camera used to look inside the womb, and/or a biopsy, which is a small sample taken from the lining of the womb to test it. These tests are important, but some of them, especially the camera test and the biopsy, can feel uncomfortable or painful. Sometimes the tests have to be done again if they do not work the first time. We know that fewer than five out of a hundred people who have bleeding after the menopause actually have womb cancer. This means many people have these more invasive tests even though they do not have cancer. The SONNET study is looking for more patient-friendly ways to work out who really needs these tests and who can be safely told they do not need them. The focus of this project is Predict-EC, a calculator that uses information like a person's age, weight, symptoms and medication use and combines it with a simple urine test and internal scan to give a score for their risk of womb cancer. This risk score could be used to guide whether or not women need further tests with hysteroscopy and or a biopsy. Another test the SONNET study will look at is spectroscopy, a technique that tests blood or urine samples to look for small chemical patterns that could be linked to cancer. Another is a vaginal swab test that can pick up DNA changes linked to womb cancer. These tests are made to safely rule out womb cancer in women who have bleeding after the menopause. One day, they could be used in the NHS. We are inviting around 3,000 people who have been referred with bleeding after the menopause from hospitals across England, Wales and Scotland to take part in SONNET. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to answer some questions about yourself, your symptoms, your medical history and we will ask for a sample of your urine. We would also like to take a blood sample and a vaginal swab sample, but these are optional. Your usual NHS care will carry on as normal. If these new tests are shown to work well, they could reduce the number of people who have unnecessary tests that can be uncomfortable or invasive. They could make waiting time shorter and help people who do have womb cancer get diagnosed more quickly. Please read the participant information sheet before deciding to take part. Thank you for taking the time to hear about SONNET.