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PRE-ACT-01: an international, multicenter, randomized study on communicating a personalized AI-based lymphedema risk to breast cancer patients

Marie Bergeaud¹, Tim Rattay², Karolien Verhoeven³, Assia Lamrani-Ghaouti¹, Catherine Gaudin⁴, Guido Bologna⁵, Gabriella Cortellessa⁶, Andre Dekker³, Francesca Fracasso⁶, Manuela Joore⁷, Iordanis Koutsopoulos⁸, Yuqin Liang³, André Panisson⁹, Alan Perotti⁹, Bram Ramaekers⁷, Cheryl Roumen¹⁰, Johan van Soest¹¹, Hilary Stobart¹², Christopher J Talbot¹³, Adam Webb¹³, Alexis Bombezin-Domino¹⁴, Robabeh Ghodssighassemabadi¹⁵, Stefan Michiels¹⁵, Sofia Rivera¹⁶

¹UNITRAD, UNICANCER, Paris, France. ²Leicester Cancer Research Centre, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom. ³Department of Radiation Oncology (Maastr), GROW School for Oncology and Reproduction, Maastricht University Medical Centre+, Maastricht, Netherlands. ⁴Data and Partnerships Department, UNICANCER, Paris, France. ⁵University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland, HES-SO Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland. ⁶Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), ISTC Roma, Rome, Italy. ⁷Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Medical Technology Assessment (KEMTA), Maastricht University Medical Centre MUMC+/Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI), Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands. ⁸Department of Informatics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece. ⁹CENTAI, CENTAI, Turin, Italy. ¹⁰Department of Applied and Engineering Sciences, Dutch Research Council (NWO), Utrecht, Netherlands. ¹¹Medical Data Works, Medical Data Works, Maastricht, Netherlands. ¹²Independent Cancer Patients' Voice, Independent Cancer Patients' Voice, London, United Kingdom. ¹³Department of Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom. ¹⁴TheraPanacea, TheraPanacea, Paris, France. ¹⁵Clinical Research Division, Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France. ¹⁶Breast Radiotherapy Department, Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France

Topic

Clinical: Breast

Keywords

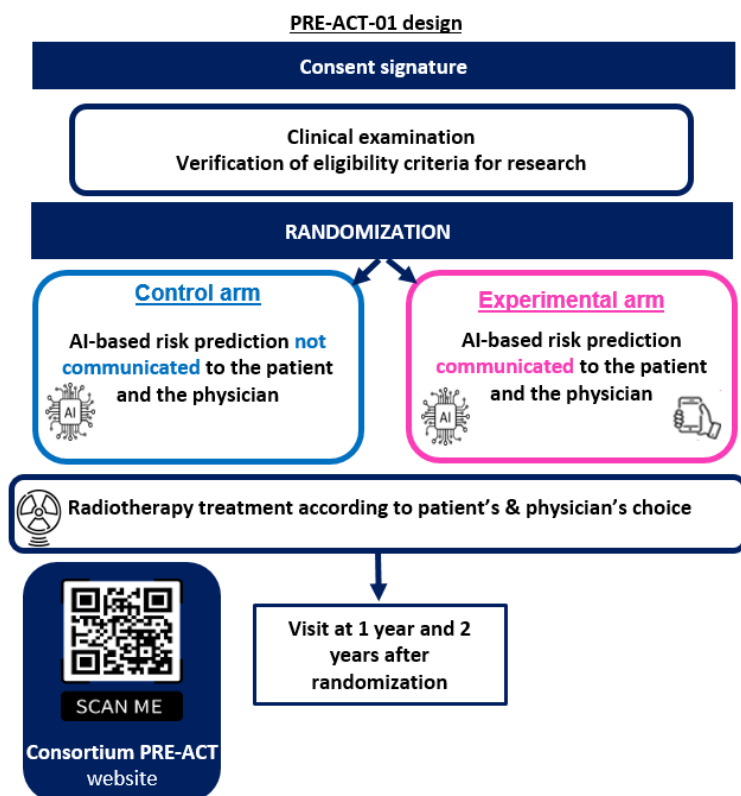
breast cancer, lymphedema, AI-prediction

Purpose/Objective

PRE-ACT-01 (NCT05701085) is an innovative, international, multicenter, randomized-controlled pivotal study designed to assess the impact of communicating an individualized, explainable AI-driven risk prediction for arm lymphedema to breast cancer patients indicated for nodal radiotherapy. The primary objective is to demonstrate that sharing this personalized risk information is non-inferior to the current standard of care in terms of the 2-year incidence of arm lymphedema (defined as a $\geq 5\%$ increase in arm circumference of the treated side from baseline, relative to the contralateral side). PRE-ACT-01 also evaluates the influence of the explainable AI-based communication on radiotherapy regimen choices, loco-regional events, quality of life, and the performance of the prediction model. We hereby report the design of the PRE-ACT-01 study.

The model was trained on a diverse dataset of (ISRCTN98496463), HypoG-01 (NCT03127995) class IIa medical device generates a personalized risk prediction of lymphedema occurrence based on 28 features collected before randomization. Patients in the experimental arm, physicians utilize a dedicated web application to communicate the AI-predicted risk, empowered by personalized recommendations for lymphedema prevention based on AI prediction explainability, thus fostering shared decision-making with the patient. In the control arm, the predicted risk is blinded to both the patient and physician.

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Results

PRE-ACT-01 is currently enrolling 724 patients across 35 centers in three European countries (29 in France, 3 in the Netherlands, and 3 in the UK), using a model with an estimated ROC-AUC of 0.83. The sample size is calculated to provide 80% power to detect a non-inferiority accepting up to a 6% increase in the 2-year lymphedema incidence, with a 5% significance level. The first patient was successfully enrolled in France on October 7, 2025, with recruitment planned over 14 months. The final analysis will be stratified by key prognostic factors, including BMI, surgery type, and nodal involvement.

Conclusion

By integrating an explainable AI-powered predictive tool into the clinical workflow, PRE-ACT-01 represents a significant step towards personalized AI-driven intervention in oncology. This innovative, large-scale study has the potential to establish a new standard of care, where early identification of high-risk patients enables targeted preventative strategies and empowers patients through shared decision-making, ultimately improving long-term outcomes for breast cancer survivors.

References

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