

2019 Research Awards

Project Title:

Development of a novel drug to prevent skin cancers in solid organ transplant patients

Lead Investigator:

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Collaborative Project Team:

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Project Summary:

Unfortunately, the anti-rejection medicines that kidney transplant patients need to take makes skin cancers much more common and more aggressive. We are working to make a cream that promotes immune function in the skin to try to reduce the risk of skin cancers in transplant patients. Initially we will be developing methods to measure these drugs in the skin. Initially, we plan to use small pieces of skin from transplant patients that is removed as part of routine surgery to measure the concentrations of the anti-rejection medications in skin. Later we will also use small skin biopsies from transplant recipients to try to work out when the concentration is at its highest. This is likely to be the most important time to apply cream to sun damaged skin to reduce the risk of skin cancers. to try to optimize the treatment.

Research Benefits:

Squamous cell skin cancers are more common in Queensland than anywhere else. For most people these are simple to cut off or freeze. Unfortunately, the anti-rejection medicines that kidney transplant patients need to take makes these cancers much more common and more aggressive. We are working to make a cream that promotes immune function in the skin to try to reduce the risk of skin cancers in transplant patients.

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