Gilbert, B., Tilling, K., Martin, R., Lane, J. A., Davis, M., Hamdy, F., ... Metcalfe, C. (2018). Developing new age-specific prostate-specific antigen thresholds for testing for prostate cancer. Cancer Causes and Control. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10552-018-1014-3
Developing new age-specific prostate-specific antigen thresholds for testing for prostate cancer

Rebecca Gilbert1 · Kate Tilling1 · Richard M. Martin1,2 · J. Athene Lane1 · Michael Davis1 · Freddie C. Hamdy3 · David E. Neal4 · Jenny L. Donovan1 · Chris Metcalfe1

Received: 19 September 2017 / Accepted: 9 February 2018 © The Author(s) 2018. This article is an open access publication

Abstract

Purpose To examine whether age-related reference ranges for “normal” prostate-specific antigen (PSA) change (determined in men without prostate cancer) can be used to identify men at high risk of having prostate cancer.

Methods Subjects were men aged 50–69 years with PSA < 10 ng/mL from the UK-based Prostate Testing for cancer and Treatment (ProtecT) study. Men with prostate cancer were categorized as high or low risk of progression (Low risk: Gleason score ≤ 6 and stage T1–T2a; High risk: Gleason score 7–10 or stage T2C). Men without prostate cancer were those with no histological confirmation of prostate cancer. Previously developed longitudinal reference ranges for normal age-related PSA change were used to calculate an age-specific PSA threshold. We compared the ability of our age-specific PSA threshold to discriminate between high- and no/low-risk prostate cancer with that of two existing thresholds: (i) threshold of PSA = 3 ng/ml for all ages; (ii) National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines dependent on age-group thresholds (age 50–59: PSA = 3 ng/mL; age 60–70: PSA = 4 ng/mL; age ≥ 70: PSA = 5 ng/mL).

Results We included 823 men with high-risk prostate cancer and 80,721 men with no/low-risk prostate cancer. A threshold of PSA = 3 ng/ml for all ages identified more high-risk prostate cancers, recommending biopsy in 9.8% of men, of which 10.3% (n = 823) had high-risk prostate cancer. Using the NICE guidelines as the threshold for biopsy, 6.9% men were recommended for biopsy, of which 11.9% (n = 668) had high-risk prostate cancer. Using the new age-specific threshold for biopsy, 2.3% men were recommended for biopsy, of which 15.2% (n = 290) had high-risk prostate cancer. The age-specific threshold identified fewer high-risk prostate cancers, but fewer men received unnecessary biopsy.

Conclusion There is no benefit to using reference ranges for “normal” PSA that change with age nor the age-specific thresholds suggested by the NICE guidelines. While the age-varying thresholds are more discriminatory, too many high-risk cancers are missed.

Keywords Prostate cancer · Prostate-specific antigen testing · Biopsy · Age · Reference ranges

Introduction

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing, followed by biopsy if the PSA level is raised (typically ≥ PSA 3–4 ng/mL), is a widely accepted screening method for prostate cancer [1]. However, most screen-detected prostate cancers have low risk of progression, with potential harm caused by unnecessary treatment [2, 3].

Despite widespread use of PSA testing, men with raised PSA may have no evidence of prostate cancer at biopsy, while not all men with prostate cancer have raised PSA [4]. PSA levels increase with age, and the natural variability in PSA level (both within men over time, and between men) is likely to be greater in older men [5], thus obscuring disease-related changes. Current age-related PSA thresholds are based on cross-sectional data and hence do not attempt to distinguish these different sources of variability, nor to describe serial changes in PSA level for aging individuals.

The aim of the current study was to examine whether age-related reference ranges for “normal” PSA change...
(determined in men without prostate cancer) can be used to identify men at high risk of having prostate cancer. We hypothesize that a higher threshold will be identified for older men, which will identify clinically relevant prostate cancers at high risk of progression while saving some men from unnecessary biopsy.

**Methods**

The study is nested within a multicenter randomized controlled trial of treatments for localized prostate cancer: the Prostate Testing for cancer and Treatment (ProtecT) study [6]. Between 2001 and 2009, over 100,000 men aged 50–69 years attended a ‘prostate check clinic’ where they were offered a PSA test. Those with raised levels (≥ 3 ng/mL) were offered diagnostic biopsy. Tumors were histologically confirmed, clinically staged (“localized”: T1–T2; “locally advanced”: T3–T4) [7], and Gleason graded.

Men were included in the current study if they had PSA < 10 ng/mL, as PSA above this level would normally warrant further investigation.

Men with prostate cancer were categorized as low risk of progression if their Gleason score was six or less and stage T1–T2a, and as high risk of progression if their Gleason score was seven to ten or stage T2b–T4, adapted from the NICE guidelines [9]. For 137 men who had Gleason score ≤ 6 but no stage, and 23 men who had stage T1–T2a but no Gleason score, a low risk of progression was assumed.

Men without prostate cancer were defined as those with no histological confirmation of prostate cancer, i.e., (i) PSA < 3 ng/mL; (ii) PSA ≥ 3 ng/mL and a negative biopsy result.

Longitudinal reference ranges for normal PSA change with age were developed previously using data from the Krimpen longitudinal community-based study [8], specifically serial PSA measurements from men aged 50–78 years who did not have prostate cancer (n = 1,462).

An upper bound for age-specific PSA level, above which the fastest increasing 2.5% of men lie, can be estimated using the PSA level for each age as described by Krimpen (Fig. 1). If PSA falls above this reference level, then it is implied that the patient’s PSA is above what would be expected due to normal aging. For example, at age 50, a man would be recommended for biopsy if his PSA ≥ 2.8 ng/mL. At age 55 years, a man would be recommended for biopsy if his PSA ≥ 3.8 ng/mL, and, at 65 years, if his PSA ≥ 7.6 ng/mL.

We compared the ability of the new age-specific threshold to discriminate between high-risk and no/low-risk prostate cancer with that of two existing thresholds: (i) threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages; (ii) National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines depending on age group (age 50–59: PSA = 3 ng/mL; age 60–70: PSA = 4 ng/mL; age ≥ 70: PSA = 5 ng/mL) [9].

For each threshold, we calculated the number of (i) men with high-risk prostate cancer and PSA above the threshold (i.e., true positive (TP)), (ii) men with no or low-risk prostate cancer and PSA below the threshold (i.e., true negative (TN)), (iii) men with no or low-risk prostate cancer and PSA above the threshold (i.e., false positive (FP)), and (iv) men with high-risk prostate cancer and PSA below the threshold (i.e., false negative (FN)). Analyses are stratified by age group.

We additionally calculated the diagnostic likelihood ratio (LR) as sensitivity/(1-specificity), where sensitivity is the proportion of high-risk prostate cancers correctly identified as such (= TP/(TP + FN)) and specificity is the proportion of no or low-risk prostate cancers correctly identified as such (TN/(FP + TN)). A higher value of the LR indicates that a test is better able to discriminate between men with high-risk prostate cancer and those with no or low-risk prostate cancer.

Analyses were carried out in Stata 14 (StataCorp, 2014. College Station, TX).

**Results**

There were 81,553 men aged ≥ 50 years with at least one PSA result and PSA ≤ 10 ng/mL. 9 men were dropped from analysis as their clinical information was missing. Of the remaining 81,544 men, 2,556 (3.1%) men had prostate cancer. The current analysis includes 823 men with clinically relevant prostate cancer at high risk of progression and 80,721 men with no (n = 78,988) or low risk of progression (n = 1,733) prostate cancer.

There were no substantial differences in baseline characteristics between men with high-risk prostate cancer and no/low-risk prostate cancer other than mean age (62.4 years vs. 59.3 years, p ≤ 0.001) and mean PSA level (5.5 vs. 1.3 ng/mL, p ≤ 0.001) (Table S1).

Using a threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages as the threshold for biopsy resulted in 8,015 men (9.8%) being recommended for biopsy, of which 823 (10.3%) had high-risk prostate cancer. THE LR was 11.2 (Table 1; Fig. 1).

Using the NICE guidelines based on age group as the threshold for biopsy resulted in 5,626 (6.9%) men being recommended for biopsy, of which 668 (11.9%) had high-risk prostate cancer. Within men who had no or low-risk prostate cancer 2,235 men were saved unnecessary biopsy when using the NICE guidelines based on age group compared with a threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages at the cost of not identifying 155 men with high-risk prostate cancer. The LR was 13.3 (Table 1; Fig. 1).
Using the new age-specific threshold for biopsy resulted in 1,909 (2.3%) men being recommended for biopsy, of which 290 (15.2%) had high-risk prostate cancer. Within men who had no or low-risk prostate cancer 5,579 men were saved unnecessary biopsy when using the new age-specific threshold compared with a threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages at the cost of not identifying 533 men with high-risk prostate cancer. The LR was 17.6 (Table 1; Fig. 1).

**Discussion**

In UK men aged 50–69 years, using reference ranges for “normal” PSA change with age or the age group-specific thresholds suggested by the NICE guidelines resulted in fewer unnecessary biopsies but at the cost of more missed prostate cancers. While the threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages identified more prostate cancers at high risk of progression than either of the other two thresholds, resulting in fewer missed prostate cancers, more men received an unnecessary prostate biopsy. The diagnostic likelihood ratios suggest that the thresholds that incorporate age do give a more discriminatory test. However, the number of high-risk prostate cancers that are missed by the age-specific threshold test and the thresholds suggested by the NICE guidelines means that these tests are unacceptable in practice.

Other age-adjusted PSA thresholds for biopsy have been suggested [10], although these have been for age groups and based on cross-sectional data. Tests of these age-adjusted cut-offs showed inconclusive results, although age-adjusted thresholds for PSA were recommended in the majority of cases. This method has not become widely accepted in clinical use or screening programs among concerns about missing a high proportion of clinically significant cancers in older men while augmenting the rate of unnecessary biopsies in younger men. Results from the Tyrol Prostate Cancer Early Detection Program found that age-adjusted PSA thresholds using PSA and free PSA levels achieved a similar sensitivity while simultaneously reducing the number of biopsies [11]. Results from another study using the same data as the current study found that an age- and BMI-adjusted PSA model
Table 1  Comparison of performance of the three thresholds for PSA (i) threshold of PSA = 3 ng/ml for all ages; (ii) NICE thresholds (age 50–59: PSA = 3 ng/mL; age 60–70: PSA = 4 ng/mL; age ≥ 70: PSA = 5 ng/mL); (iii) age-specific threshold developed in the current study above which the fastest increasing 2.5% of men lie

| Age Group          | Men with high-risk prostate cancer, PSA above threshold, i.e., true positives (n) | Men with high-risk prostate cancer, PSA below threshold, i.e., false negatives (n) | Proportion of high-risk prostate cancer correctly identified as such$^a$ (95% CI) | Men with no/low-risk prostate cancer, PSA above threshold, i.e., true negatives (n) | Men with no/low-risk prostate cancer, PSA below threshold, i.e., false positives (n) | Proportion of no or low-risk prostate cancer correctly identified as such$^a$ (95% CI) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Men            | 290                                                                             | 533                                                                             | 35.2 (32.0, 38.6)                                                             | 79,102                                                                          | 1,619                                                                           | 98.0 (97.9, 98.1)                                                             |
| New age-specific PSA threshold | 668                                                                             | 155                                                                             | 81.2 (78.3, 83.8)                                                             | 75,763                                                                          | 4,958                                                                           | 93.9 (93.7, 94.0)                                                             |
| NICE guidelines PSA = 3 ng/mL | 822                                                                             | 1                                | 99.9 (99.3, 100.0)                                                           | 73,528                                                                          | 7,193                                                                           | 91.1 (90.9, 91.3)                                                             |
| Age group 50–54 years | 73                                                                             | 11                                                                             | 86.9 (77.8, 93.3)                                                             | 20,759                                                                          | 572                                                                             | 97.3 (97.1, 97.5)                                                             |
| New age-specific PSA threshold | 84                                                                             | 0                                | 100.0 (95.7,100.0)                                                           | 20,558                                                                          | 773                                                                             | 96.4 (96.1, 96.6)                                                             |
| NICE guidelines PSA = 3 ng/mL | 84                                                                             | 0                                | 100.0 (95.7,100.0)                                                           | 20,558                                                                          | 773                                                                             | 96.4 (96.1, 96.6)                                                             |
| Age group 55–59 years | 111                                                                       | 66                                                                             | 62.7 (55.1, 69.9)                                                             | 23,973                                                                          | 632                                                                             | 97.4 (97.2, 97.6)                                                             |
| New age-specific PSA threshold | 177                                                                       | 0                                | 100.0 (97.9, 100.0)                                                          | 22,904                                                                          | 1,701                                                                           | 93.1 (92.8, 93.4)                                                             |
| NICE guidelines PSA = 3 ng/mL | 177                                                                       | 0                                | 100.0 (97.9, 100.0)                                                          | 22,904                                                                          | 1,701                                                                           | 93.1 (92.8, 93.4)                                                             |
| Age group 60–64 years | 86                                                                        | 174                                                                           | 33.1 (27.4, 39.2)                                                             | 19,575                                                                          | 362                                                                             | 98.2 (98.0, 98.4)                                                             |
| New age-specific PSA threshold | 181                                                                       | 79                                                                             | 69.6 (63.6, 75.1)                                                             | 18,692                                                                          | 1,245                                                                           | 93.8 (93.4, 94.1)                                                             |
| NICE guidelines PSA = 3 ng/mL | 259                                                                       | 1                                | 99.6 (97.9, 100.0)                                                           | 17,579                                                                          | 2,358                                                                           | 88.2 (87.7, 88.6)                                                             |
| Age group ≥ 65 years | 20                                                                       | 282                                                                           | 6.6 (4.1, 10.0)                                                               | 14,795                                                                          | 53                                                                              | 99.6 (99.5, 99.7)                                                             |
| New age-specific PSA threshold | 226                                                                       | 76                                                                             | 74.8 (69.5, 79.6)                                                             | 13,609                                                                          | 1,239                                                                           | 91.7 (91.2, 92.1)                                                             |
| NICE guidelines PSA = 3 ng/mL | 302                                                                       | 0                                | 100.0 (98.8, 100.0)                                                           | 12,487                                                                          | 2,361                                                                           | 84.1 (83.5, 84.7)                                                             |

$^a$Equivalent to internal estimates of sensitivity = TP/(TP + FN) and specificity = TN/(FP + TN) where TP is true positives, FN is false negatives, TN is true negatives, FP is false positives

$^b$One man had PSA = 0.2 at the prostate check clinic, and received a biopsy which identified prostate cancer
was no more clinically useful for detecting prostate cancer than the current NICE guidelines [12].

Men in the ProtecT study with a PSA < 3 ng/mL were not biopsied and may have had undiagnosed prostate cancer, resulting in calculated sensitivities that are not reflective of the true sensitivities. Consequently, while the sensitivity and specificity for the PSA thresholds in this study can be directly compared, they should not be compared with the true sensitivity and specificity of PSA testing as published by previous studies, and we do not refer to them as sensitivity or specificity throughout this article to avoid confusion. The new age-specific threshold would recommend that men aged 50 years use a threshold of PSA = 2.8 ng/mL. These men were not biopsied in ProtecT and so may have had undiagnosed prostate cancer.

The only threshold that would lead to men with a PSA < 3 ng/mL being biopsied is the new age-specific threshold, where the threshold is less than 3 ng/mL for younger men (men aged 50 years would be biopsied if their PSA was 2.8 ng/mL). By the time the men are 51 years, the threshold is 3 ng/mL.

**Conclusion**

In this cohort of UK men aged 50–69 years, there is no evidence of benefit from using reference ranges for “normal” PSA change with age nor the age-specific thresholds suggested by the NICE guidelines (age 50–59: PSA = 3 ng/mL; age 60–70: PSA = 4 ng/mL; age ≥ 70: PSA = 5 ng/mL). A threshold of PSA = 3 ng/mL for all ages identified more clinically relevant prostate cancers at high risk of progression than either of the other two thresholds, resulting in fewer missed prostate cancers, but at the cost of more men receiving an unnecessary prostate biopsy. While the age-varying thresholds are more discriminatory, too many high-risk cancers are missed.

**Acknowledgements** Lead nurses: Sue Bonnington, Lynne Bradshaw, Debbie Cooper, Emma Elliott, Pippa Herbert, Peter Holding, Joanne Howson, Mandy Jones, Teresa Lennon, Norma Lyons, Hilary Moody, Claire Plumb, Tricia O’Sullivan, Liz Salter, Sarah Tidball, Pauline Thompson. Nurses: Tonia Adam, Sarah Askew, Sharon Atkinson, Tim Baynes, Jan Blaikie, Viv Breen, Sean Bryne, Jo Bythem, Jenny Clarke, Jenny Cloete, Susan Dark, Gill Davis, Rachael De La Rue, Elspeth Dewhurst, Anna Dimes, Nicola Dixon, Penny Ebbs, Ingrid Emmerison, Jill Ferguson, Ali Gadd, Lisa Geoghegan, Alison Grant, Collette Grant, Catherine Gray, Rosemary Godfrey, Louise Goodwin, Susie Hall, Liz Hart, Andrew Harvey, Chloe Hoult, Sarah Hawkins, Sharon Holling, Alastair Innes, Sue Kilner, Fiona Marshall, Louise Mellen, Andrea Moore, Sally Napier, Julie Needham, Kevin Pearse, Anna Pisa, Mark Rees, Elliw Richards, Lindsay Robson, Janet Roxburgh, Nikki Samuel, Irene Sharkey, Michael Slater, Donna Smith, Pippa Taggart, Helen Taylor, Ayesha Thomas, Nicola Trewick, Claire Ward, Christy Walker, Ayesha Williams, Colin Woodhouse, Elizabeth Wyber, and others. Urologists: Prasad Bollina, Jim Catto, Andrew Doble, Alan Doherty, Garett Durkan, David Gillatt, Owen Hughes, Roger Kocklebergh, Howard Kynaston, Hing Leung, Edgar Paez, Alan Paul, Raj Persad, Philip Powell, Stephen Prescott, Derek Rosario, Hartwig Schwabold, David Tulloch, Mike Wallace. Clinical oncologists: Amit Bahl, Richard Benson, Mark Beresford, Catherine Ferguson, John Graham, Grahame Howard, Nick James, Carmel Loughrey, Malcolm Mason, Duncan McClaren, Helen Patterson, Ian Pedley, Angus Robinson, Simon Russell, John Staffurth, Paul Symonds, Subramaniam Vasanathan, Paula Wilson. Pathologists: Selina Bhattacharai, Neeta Deshmukh, John Dormer, John Goepel, David Griffiths, Ken Grigor, Pat Harnden, Nick Mayer, Jon Oxlery, Mary Robinson, Murali Varma, Anne Warren. Radiotherapy and medical physics: Helen Appleby, Dominic Ash, Dean Aston, Steven Bolton, Graham Chalmers, John Conway, Nick Early, Tony Geater, Lynda Goddall, Claire Heymann, Deborah Hicks, Liza Jones, Susan Lamb, Geoff Lambert, Gill Lawrence, Geraint Lewis, John Lilley, Aileen MacLeod, Pauline Massey, Alison McQueen, Rollo Moore, Lynda Penketh, Janet Potterton, Neil Roberts, Helen Showler, Stephen Slade, Alasdair Steele, James Swinscoe, Marie Tiffany, John Townley, Jo Treeby, Joyce Wilkinson, Lorraine Williams, Lucy Wills, Owain Woodley, Sue Yarrow. Research and data management: Lucy Brindle, Michael Davis, Dan Dedman, Elizabeth Down, Chris Metcalfe, Sian Noble, Tim Peters, Emma Turner, Julia Wade, Eleanor Walsh. Administrative support: Susan Baker, Elizabeth Bellis-Sheldon, Chantal Bourgard, Joanne Bowtell, Catherine Brewer, Jennie Charlton, Nicholas Christoforou, Rebecca Clark, Susan Coull, Christine Croker, Rosemary Currey, Claire Daisey, Gill Delaney, Rose Donohue, Susan Fry, Jean Haddow, Susan Halpin, Belle Harris, Barbara Hattrick, Sharon Holmes, Helen Hunt, Vicky Jackson, Mandy Le Butt, Jo Leworthy, Tanya Liddiatt, Alex Martin, Jane Mauree, Susan Moore, Gill Mouland, Jackie Mutch, Kathleen Parker, Christopher Pawsay, Michelle Purdie, Teresa Robson, Lynne Smith, Carole Stenton, Tom Steuart-Fielding, Chris Sully, Caroline Sutton, Carol Torrington, Zoe Wilkins, Sharon Williams, Andrea Wilson, and others.

**Funding** RG is funded by a Cancer Research UK Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowship (C31211/A15194). The study is supported by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme, HTA 96/20/99; ISRCTN20141297. The funding source had no role in the design, conduct of the study, collection, management, analysis, and interpretation or preparation, review, or approval of the article.

**Compliance with ethical standards**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**Ethical approval** Trent Multicentre Research Ethics Committee (MREC) approved the ProtecT study (MREC/01/4/025) and the associated ProMPT study which collected biological material (MREC/01/4/061). All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

**Informed consent** Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

**Open Access** This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate
credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.

References

1. Cancer Research UK (2014) CancerStats report prostate cancer: UK, Cancer Research UK
2. Donovan JL, Hamdy FC, Lane JA, Mason M, Metcalfe C, Walsh E et al. Patient-reported outcomes after monitoring, surgery, or radiotherapy for prostate cancer. N Engl J Med 375(15):1425-1437
3. Hamdy FC, Donovan JL, Lane JA, Mason M, Metcalfe C, Holding P et al (2016) 10-year outcomes after monitoring, surgery, or radiotherapy for localized prostate cancer. N Engl J Med 375(15):1415-1424
4. Thompson IM, Anerst DP, Chi C, Goodman PJ, Tangen CM, Lucia MS et al (2006) Assessing prostate cancer risk: results from the prostate cancer prevention trial. JNCI 98(8):529-534
5. Oesterling JE (1996) Age-specific reference ranges for serum PSA. N Engl J Med 335(5):345
6. Lane JA, Donovan JL, Davis M, Walsh E, Down L, Turner EL et al (2014) Active monitoring, radical prostatectomy, or radiotherapy for localised prostate cancer: study design and diagnostic and baseline results of the ProtecT randomised phase 3 trial. Lancet Oncol 15(10):1109-1118
7. Ohori M, Wheeler TM, Scardino PT (1994) The new American joint committee on cancer and international union against cancer TNM classification of prostate cancer. Cancer 74(1):104-114
8. Bosch JLHR., Tilling K, Bohnen AM, Donovan JL (2006) Establishing normal reference ranges for PSA change with age in a population-based study: the Krimpen study. Prostate 66(4):335-343
9. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline (2014) Prostate cancer: diagnosis and treatment CG175. https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg175. Accessed 25 July 2017
10. Luboldt H-J, Schindler JF, Rubben H (2007) Age-specific reference ranges for prostate-specific antigen as a marker for prostate cancer. EAU-EBU Update Series 5(1):38-48
11. Heidegger I, Fritz J, Klocker H, Pichler R, Bektic J, Horninger W (2015) Age-adjusted PSA levels in prostate cancer prediction: updated results of the tyrol prostate cancer early detection program. PLoS ONE 10(7):e0134134
12. Harrison S, Tilling K, Turner E, Lane A, Simpkin A, Davis M et al (2016) Investigating the prostate specific antigen, body mass index and age relationship. Cancer Causes Control 27(12):1465-1474

Affiliations

Rebecca Gilbert1 © · Kate Tilling1 · Richard M. Martin1,2 · J. Athene Lane1 · Michael Davis1 · Freddie C. Hamdy3 · David E. Neal4 · Jenny L. Donovan1 · Chris Metcalfe1

Kate Tilling
Kate.Tilling@Bristol.ac.uk

Richard M. Martin
Richard.Martin@Bristol.ac.uk

J. Athene Lane
Athene.Lane@Bristol.ac.uk

Michael Davis
Michael.Davis@Bristol.ac.uk

Freddie C. Hamdy
freddie.hamdy@nds.ox.ac.uk

David E. Neal
den22@cam.ac.uk

Jenny L. Donovan
Jenny.Donovan@Bristol.ac.uk

Chris Metcalfe
Chris.Metcalfe@Bristol.ac.uk

1 Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, 39 Whatley Road, Bristol BS8 2PS, UK
2 MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, University of Bristol, Oakfield House, Oakfield Grove, Bristol BS8 2BN, UK
3 Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, UK
4 Department of Oncology, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK