

NHS Innovations Case Study

CamPROBE Prostate Biopsy Device

More than 52,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in the UK annually, but the current mainstay method of detecting prostate cancer carries significant discomfort, risk of infection, and cost. The majority of diagnoses are achieved via a needle biopsy of the prostate, guided by a transrectal ultrasound probe inserted into the rectum, which carries a significant risk of side effects including urinary infections and severe sepsis, as the needle traverses the rectal wall multiple times on the way to the prostate. The annual costs associated with UK hospitalisation for biopsy-related sepsis are estimated to be £7-11 million.

Professor Vincent Gnanapragasam, and his colleagues at The University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, developed the Cambridge Prostate Biopsy Device (CamPROBE®), an innovative device to safely access the prostate using fewer incisions through the perineum instead of via the transrectal route. As such, the device reduces the risk of infection. In addition to negotiating the exclusive licence agreement for the device, Health

Tech Enterprise (HTE) assisted with the procurement of grant funding and Intellectual Property (IP) protection for the device.



IP Protection

Following an assessment of the IP and literature landscapes, HTE established an initial assessment of patentability and devised an IP strategy to protect the innovation. Patent protection for the device has now been secured, in addition to registering the trademark for CamPROBE®.

Funding and outcomes

Professor Gnanapragasam decided to pursue funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to refine, clinically

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review, and pursue regulatory approval for the device.

During the grant funding application, the HTE team reviewed the initial application and identified areas to strengthen the value proposition for the grant application and assisted with preparations for the application interview process. With the benefit of HTE's expertise, Professor Gnanapragasam successfully secured nearly £800,000 of funding for a three-year development project, which included a clinical investigation into the use and transferability of the device and a Health Economics study.

The data gathered during the investigation was used to secure the CE marking ensuring that the device can be sold in the UK and European markets.

Licensing

HTE's support culminated in the successful negotiation of an exclusive licensing agreement between Cambridge Enterprise and JEB Technologies Ltd. This provided JEB Technologies Ltd with the exclusive rights to research, develop and sell CamPROBE® to healthcare providers worldwide.

Future

The CamPROBE device is recommended by NICE for use within the NHS and was launched at MEDICA in November 2022.

About Health Tech Enterprise

Our business and innovation management services support healthcare innovators throughout the product development journey, from concept to commercialisation and final roll-out.

We offer healthcare market and health economics insights and evaluation, as well as regulatory, business and IP advice and management. We also advise on strategic market access, support with securing funding and deliver training and entrepreneurship services.

Our work ensures medical technology innovations are developed to realise their potential and benefit patients. We work with 20 NHS Trusts across England providing a range of innovation management services delivered by our expert team.