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## Groundbreaking bowel cancer research wins award

A regional research study sponsored by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, which could lead to improved diagnosis of bowel cancer, has scooped an award.

Around 1,800 patients were recruited for the study to find out if using special technology, Narrow Band Imaging (NBI), during a colonoscopy (camera test) may be able to help doctors and nurses decide whether polyps - growths on the bowel wall - are potentially pre-cancerous as accurately as examination in the laboratory. The findings are being awaited worldwide as this is the first, large scale study of its kind.

Professor Colin Rees, of South Tyneside District Hospital, who led the study, said: "If NBI is found to be as accurate, it will allow us to provide results to patients regarding the nature of polyps immediately, rather than having to wait for laboratory tests. It would also mean that polyps that are unlikely to become cancerous will not need to be removed, meaning less risk for patients."

The trial was judged the winner in the Chief Investigator/Study Team of the Year category by the National Institute for Health Research North East and North Cumbria Clinical Research Network. The patients involved were from South Tyneside District Hospital, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospital of North Tees, North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Professor Rees said: "We are delighted with this award, which recognises the commitment of the study team and the excellence of the collaborative working within the North East and North Cumbria Clinical Research Network and with Durham Clinical Trials Unit. We are particularly grateful to all patients who are prepared to participate in studies: research is a very important way to improve patient care and we couldn't do that without patient involvement in research."

**ends**

*Pictured above: Receiving their award, left to right, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Research Lead Claire Livingstone; Service Lead, Quality, Research and Clinical Audit, Jill Hollis; Professor Colin Rees and Lead Research Nurse Carly Brown, with Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network*

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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