

# Scientists Develop New Mini-Tumours!

## Growth of new organoids will help doctors give more effective cancer treatment

*Reporters: David and Joseph*

Doctors from The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research have grown replica tumours from samples given by 71 patients with severe digestive cancers.

55 different drugs were tested on each of the patients 'organoid' tumours and the patients themselves.

The study was carried out with the intention of finding a better way of identifying the drugs that did and didn't work on patients

The results were compared with each other and showed that drugs that failed in the patients also failed in the organ 100% of the time.

88% of drugs that worked on the organoids worked on patients, giving the organoid an average accuracy of 9 successful predictions out of 10.

We asked our biology teacher what he thought about this development and what it meant for the treatment of cancer.

"It would make it easier to test treatment of cancers without harming anyone in a cheaper and less invasive way than using animal tumours. It would be just as effective, if not more, and it would be quicker,"

We also got a quote from a Year 10 student:

"The fact that you're not experimenting on the patients makes it safer and it'd improve the way we deal with different types of cancer, including testing more risky and advanced treatments. These tumours may behave differently in a laboratory than on a person's body,"

The results from these studies have so far proved extremely promising, but there are still some uncertainties including:

How reliable the testing will be when testing other cancers, as all of the patients tested in this study all had cancers relating to the digestive system.

They haven't been actually using the tumours to help with treating a patient's cancer, only studies relating to how accurate the organoid are.

It's still in early development, but results look promising.