**CCR No and Study Title:**
CCR3386
Randomised comparison of conventional histological processing of colorectal cancers with MRI guided specimen dissection for histology

**CI and Sponsor names:**
Professor Gina Brown
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

**Study opening date:** 27/05/2010
**Study closing date:** 31/03/2015

**Proposal and Objectives:**
Following surgery for bowel cancer the removed tumour is assessed in the laboratory to see how aggressive it is and how far it has spread. Part of this process involves selecting tumour samples for examination under the microscope.

The current technique which involves careful inspection of the tumour to select the most important areas for microscopic examination was compared with a new technique. This new technique involved performing an MRI of the tumour and using these images to help select these important areas.

**Main Findings:**
**Trial results**
The study team found that the two techniques selecting areas of the tumour were similar. 130 patients took part in this study. Patients were selected at random to have their tumour assessed by one of the two techniques. 64 patients had their tumour assessed by visual assessment and microscopic examination and 66 patients had their tumour assessed by MRI and microscopic examination. There was no significant difference between the two techniques in terms of how far the tumour had spread or how aggressive it was.

**Implications for practice/future research:**
The team doesn’t recommend on the basis of this study that MRI is used instead of careful visual inspection.

**Dissemination Plan:**
Publication of study findings in a peer reviewed journal