***AdVince study in Uppsala:***

**Searching for patients with neuroendocrine tumour disease**

**AdVince is a new form of immunotherapy that is currently being evaluated in the treatment of cancer at Uppsala University Hospital. The patients treated have progressive neuroendocrine tumour disease with metastases in the liver, and must have undergone at least two established treatments for their tumour disease before this experimental treatment can be tested.**

**The researchers are looking for patients who have undergone two established treatments for their neuroendocrine tumour disease and who are healthy enough to cope with an experimental treatment.**

AdVince is an oncolytic adenovirus (cold virus) genetically engineered to selectively kill tumour cells and activate the immune system to attack the cancer. It is gratifying that positive results have already been achieved for some of the patients treated.

The ongoing AdVince study is a Phase I clinical trial, where the main goal is to examine the safety of the treatment. The study aims to determine the maximum tolerable dose of the drug and comprises four dose levels for three patients at each level. As well as investigating side effects, a further objective is of course to establish whether the patient responds to treatment in the form of reduced tumour growth or if tumours are reduced in scope. A complete course of treatment consists of four injections over a period of approximately six weeks. AdVince is injected into the liver using X-ray technology through blood vessels in the groin. The patient is evaluated a month later by means of combined advanced medical technology (CT, MR, PET).

The study is led by Kjell Öberg and Barbro Eriksson at the endocrinology clinic at the University Hospital. It is an academic study, signed by Magnus Essand, conducted with a research group at the Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology at Uppsala University, which is behind the development of the virus. Five patients have been treated so far, and seven further patients need to be included to complete this initial Phase I study. It should then be possible to draw conclusions about possible further studies.

We are therefore looking for patients who have undergone two established treatments for their neuroendocrine tumour disease and who are healthy enough to cope with an experimental treatment. The treatment has already led to the stabilisation of progressive tumour disease at lower dose levels, which is a pleasing result. If an individual patient gains no benefit from the experimental treatment, they may revert to an established treatment after the evaluation. Patients who have undergone three or perhaps even four different established treatments are usually not healthy enough for inclusion in the AdVince study, which is why patients who have undergone two established treatments are specifically being sought.

Oncologists and endocrinologists with patients who could be suitable for inclusion in the study are invited to contact Kjell Öberg at the endocrinology clinic at the University Hospital. The study is fully financed by Uppsala University through specially earmarked donations.

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**Footnote**: AdVince is named after Vince Hamilton, who donated a large sum of money to Uppsala University for the purpose of the clinical study. Ad is an acronym for adenovirus. In addition to Vince and Mona Hamilton and their VictoryNET foundation, Alexander Masters, Dominic Nutt and Liz Scarff made a significant contribution by organising a successful crowdfunding campaign in which people from all over the world contributed small amounts of money to make the study possible (a total of over 2,000 donations from more than 40 countries).