



## Press release

Embargoed: 22 October 2011, 00:01

### Long Term Study Shows Aspirin May Significantly Reduce Risk of Bowel Cancer Beating Bowel Cancer comments on study findings

A study published in The Lancet today indicates that taking a low daily dose of aspirin can reduce the number of cases of bowel cancer by a quarter and reduce deaths from the disease by over a third.

Mark Flannagan, Chief Executive of Beating Bowel Cancer said, *“These are very positive results. This was a big study over a long period of time and reinforces the message that aspirin may be important in significantly reducing the number of cases and deaths from bowel cancer.*

*“The results suggest that taking aspirin in conjunction with a healthy diet and lifestyle might reduce your risk of developing bowel cancer. However, anyone considering starting a course of medication should first consult their GP.*

*“As Professor Rothwell suggests, a low dose of aspirin may fit well with the flexible sigmoidoscopy screening programme that will be launched by the Government next year. We will have to see how these results might be considered during the roll out of flexible sigmoidoscopy.”*

- Ends -

**For media information or spokesperson interview please contact Kate Philipson at Beating Bowel Cancer on 020 8973 0008 / 07973 942 774 or [kate@beatingbowelcancer.org](mailto:kate@beatingbowelcancer.org)**

#### Notes to editors

Peter M Rothwell, Michelle Wilson, Carl-Eric Elwinet al. *Long-term effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence and mortality: 20-year follow-up of five randomised trials.* The Lancet (Online first) October 22, 2010

DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61543-7.

The full paper of the article can be read here:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61543-7/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61543-7/abstract)

**Beating Bowel Cancer** is a leading UK charity for bowel cancer patients, working to raise awareness of symptoms, promote early diagnosis and encourage open access to treatment choice for those affected by bowel cancer. Through our work we aim to save lives from this common cancer. For more information visit [www.beatingbowelcancer.org](http://www.beatingbowelcancer.org).

#### Key facts about bowel cancer [Cancer Research UK statistics]

- Bowel cancer is the UK's second biggest cancer killer – claiming 16,000 lives each year - yet over 90% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated if diagnosed early.
- Of the 100 new cases of bowel cancer diagnosed every day, almost 50 people die from the disease.