



Orchid is a small charity dedicated to supporting the needs of those affected by male cancers. We fund pioneering research, raise awareness and offer a range of support services to men affected by **penile, testicular and penile cancer**.

# 4 NATIONS PENILE CANCER PROGRAMME

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CONFIDENTIAL MALE CANCER HELPLINE



**0808 802 0010**



[helpline@orchid-cancer.org.uk](mailto:helpline@orchid-cancer.org.uk)



[www.orchid-cancer.org.uk](http://www.orchid-cancer.org.uk)

## background

Penile cancer affects around 700 men in the UK each year.

This figure is likely to be an underestimation.

The incidence has been increasing steadily over the last 30 years, with an annual global incidence of around 36,000. This figure compares to the 52,000 men who will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the UK each year and the 1.4 million men globally.

As a result, many people do not realise that penile cancer exists and awareness of the disease is low even among healthcare professionals. Yet out of all the male specific cancers it is likely to have the most impact due to the intimate nature of the disease. At Orchid, we recognise the physical, psychological, and psychosocial impact of the disease. In response to the current unmet needs of patients and the information needs of Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) we have embarked on the 4 Nations Penile Cancer Programme.

The rarity of the disease and the treatment can lead to patients feeling isolated. Men will be referred to, and treated at regional specialist centres which may involve travelling long distances. Although treatment within these centres is excellent, follow up support is often inconsistent, and does not necessarily offer essential interventions such as peer support or counselling.



# 4 NATIONS PENILE CANCER PROGRAMME

## Purpose

The aim of the Orchid Four Nations Penile Cancer Programme is to promote not only better understanding and knowledge of the disease to the public but also to utilise the skills and experience of HCPs, patients and advocates to try and fill some of the present disparities in long term support and survivorship.

## Aims

- To improve and increase the awareness of penile cancer in the UK, through online, face to face teaching, awareness events, campaigns, and multi-media.
- To reduce the stigma associated with the disease.
- To look at ways of improving the diagnostic pathway in primary care.
- To increase the UK support available for men who have been affected by penile cancer.
- To liaise with specialist centres to co-ordinate information and support and unite HCPs, patients, and clinicians in a common cause.

Despite many years of campaigning, awareness of penile cancer remains low due to its rarity, very personal nature, and stigma with which it may be viewed. In addition, many HCPs will never have come across the disease in their clinical careers. Early symptoms may also mimic non-cancerous conditions which may lead to inappropriate treatment or referral, which may delay diagnosis.



## early diagnosis

May mean less invasive treatment.

Orchid understands that GPs and allied HCPs have limited time to learn about penile cancer during their clinical duties.

We have therefore created a guide for allied HCPs which provides an overview of the disease and its treatment as well as offering practical tips on how to support and inform patients within local communities. This can be accessed online or by scanning the following QR code.

### Guide for Allied Healthcare Professionals



[orchid-cancer.org.uk/four-nations-allied-penile-cancer-project](https://orchid-cancer.org.uk/four-nations-allied-penile-cancer-project)

Peer support for anyone affected by penile cancer can be extremely beneficial, however this is limited due to the rarity of the disease. Orchid currently works with several support groups in the UK and also facilitates in-person and virtual meetings for patients, advocates and allied HCPs. Details of these and any information regarding the 4 Nations Penile Cancer Programme can be obtained by calling the Orchid National Male Cancer Helpline or emailing our Specialist Nurses - Sinéad and Robert.



# 4 NATIONS PENILE CANCER PROGRAMME

## support

Male cancer helpline & free counselling service

Orchid also provides a telephone counselling service for testicular and penile cancer. This service can provide six free sessions with qualified cancer counsellors. Further details and referrals can be made via the National Male Cancer Helpline.



Connect:

[sinead.collins@orchid-cancer.org.uk](mailto:sinead.collins@orchid-cancer.org.uk)

[robert.cornes@orchid-cancer.org.uk](mailto:robert.cornes@orchid-cancer.org.uk)



National Male Cancer Helpline:

0808 802 0010



Information on all aspects of penile cancer:

[orchidcancer.org.uk/penile-cancer-hub](https://orchidcancer.org.uk/penile-cancer-hub)



Scan our QR code

Open your Camera app and point it steadily for 2-3 seconds towards the QR Code to scan. Whenever scanning is enabled, a notification will appear. Select and Orchid website will load.

ORCHID  
FIGHTING MALE CANCER

