

KOREA PROSTATE BANK

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Introduction: According to the statistical data, prostate cancer is increasing rapidly and ranked the 5th most common male malignancy in Korea. Prostate disease research has been hampered by limited access to large numbers of human prostate tissue and biological samples with associated clinical and outcome data. We introduce the early experience of Korea prostate bank system and our nationwide prostate bank network.

Materials and Methods: The Korea prostate bank was established in 2006. It contains a nation-wide network of 16 hospitals in Korea and funded by government. It has also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with major hospitals in USA, China, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore. The prostate bank holds specimens from patients with prostate cancer, and benign prostate hyperplasia. All the specimens have been barcodes to prevent patient exposure, and to effectively manage the specimens. All the data at the bank is thoroughly managed by the CRF (Clinical Research Form) and the prostate bank online database program.

Results: The Korea prostate Bank possess about 12000 specimens of gDNA, Glass slides, frozen tissues, paraffin blocks, PBMC, plasma, serum and urine and parcels out specimens within the country and abroad the country. Each specimen was acquired after informed consent agreements with the patients. Due to these specimens, researchers have published 8 SCI journals.

Conclusion: The goal of the prostate bank is to provide high-quality, well characterized tissue samples from a large cohort of prostate disease cases, with associated clinical follow-up information. The clinical data will need to be updated at regular intervals. We think that if other countries like America, Europe, Africa, and Asia share the data, the prostate disease research will be more direct.