**Background**

**Indication**
Prevention, treatment and care of cancer patients largely depend upon improvements in scientific research.

**Tumorbank@UZA**
Integration into a multidisciplinary cancer care programme with linkage to medical and clinical data.

**Funding**
Development and enhancement of cancer research networks was recommended in the Belgian National Cancer Plan, which was launched in 2008 by the Belgian Federal Ministry of Health. The objective is to create a virtual inter-institutional tumour biobank to promote translational research and to create a network for future academic, medical and/or industrial collaborations.

**Procedure**

**Standard Procedures**
Sample processing and storage of fresh and paraffin-embedded tissue samples.

**Good collaboration** and communication between the oncologists, the surgery room and the pathology department: ↓ ischemia

**High-qualitative samples**

**Quality Control**
Annually 1% of the collected samples.

Focus on several parameters: sample identity, location, diagnosis, sample data, RNA integrity and concentration.

**Integration/Implementation**

**Data Management**
The samples are registered in a software tool for content reception, management and distribution. A visual overview is given for any individual sample and its related derivatives. This allows users and/or researchers to query for samples with certain specifications that they want to use in their research projects. The software system has full tracking features needed for auditing.

**Guidelines**
- International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

**Collaboration**
With surrounding hospitals for sample collection

With the Belgian Cancer Registry in the development of a virtual tumour biobank.