

“Radiation Therapy & Patient-Centered Outcomes among Lung Cancer Patients”

September 8, 2014 Newsletter



Hello All from Dr. Slatore, Dr. Thomas and the research team!

We would like to update you on the current status of this research study, what needs to happen next and leave you with some food for thought.

Provider Interviews

Over the next month we will be inviting providers at each site to participate in an hour long interview with Dr. Slatore and his research team. These interviews will shed more light on how patients with stage I NSCLC move through the medical system at each site and how different providers approach communication with patients regarding their treatment plans. Please look for your invitation shortly.

Recruitment

We want to express our profound gratitude to all the providers, nurses, MAs and clinic staff at each site who have been engaged in our recruitment efforts. Thank you for taking our weekly calls and connecting us with eligible patients. You are making this study possible!

Study Enrollment

Currently, we are enrolling patients at OHSU, the Portland VA, Kaiser, Legacy and PeaceHealth. We are working with Providence and Tuality and hope to start enrolling patients in the next month. Here are our current study stats (as of Friday September 5, 2014):

Site	IRB Status	Total # Consented	Total # Radiation	Total # Surgery
Portland VAMC	Approved	21	12	9
OHSU	Approved	14	1	13
Kaiser	Approved	1		1
Legacy	Approved	3	3	
PeaceHealth	Approved	2		2
Providence	Pending			
Tuality	Pending			
Total all Sites:		41	16	25



Increase in the use of lung stereotactic body radiotherapy without a preceding biopsy in the United States



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Food for Thought

“Increase in the use of lung stereotactic body radiotherapy without a preceding biopsy in the United States” is a recently published article (June 2014) that discusses how the proportion of patients receiving SBRT without a biopsy has been increasing, per National Cancer Database statistics spanning 2003 to 2011 (article is attached to this email). Are the risks associated with SBRT so low and the patients who receive it so much more frail than their surgical counterparts that the risks of biopsy prior to SBRT are unwarranted? This will be one of the questions we’ll talk about during our interviews with clinicians. Studies looking at the cost-effectiveness for patients receiving SBRT without a confirmatory biopsy prior to treatment are in the works. The debate between the potential for overtreatment of patients without confirmed cancer and the risks associated with a biopsy prior to SBRT continue.

We would love to hear what you think and your opinions on this important topic. Please feel free to contact Christopher Slatore (christopher.slatore@va.gov) at 503-220-8262, ext. 52018 or Kathleen Rees (kathleen.rees@va.gov) at ext. 51739 with any feedback.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of you on this study. Keep up the good work everyone!

Best Regards,

Dr. Slatore, Dr. Thomas, Sara Golden and Kathleen Rees



As Dr. Thomas would say:
“Cure Cancer!”