



*National Surgical Adjuvant
Breast and Bowel Project*



RADIATION THERAPY ONCOLOGY GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WOMEN WITH EARLY STAGE BREAST CANCER SOUGHT
FOR NEW PARTIAL BREAST IRRADIATION STUDY**

Pittsburgh, PA, August 17, 2005— Researchers from the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) and the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) have launched a Phase III study that will determine whether limiting radiation therapy to only the tumor site following lumpectomy (known as partial breast irradiation), is as effective as irradiating the whole breast in the local management of early stage breast cancer. Women in this study with early stage breast cancer will undergo a lumpectomy and then be randomly assigned to partial breast irradiation (PBI) therapy or whole breast irradiation (WBI) therapy. Three thousand women will participate in this study from approximately 150 sites in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

According to Frank Vicini, MD, the study's Lead Protocol Chair, "It will be important to determine that partial breast irradiation is equivalent to whole breast irradiation before it becomes an alternative to whole breast irradiation. This study will allow us to find out whether partial breast irradiation following lumpectomy provides equivalent local tumor control and survival compared to conventional whole breast irradiation in the local management of early stage breast cancer."

Women who are assigned to the WBI group will receive radiation therapy daily on five days a week for five to seven weeks. Those assigned to the PBI group will receive radiation therapy twice a day on five days over a one to two week period for up to ten days.

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Recent developments in PBI have resulted in several comparable and reproducible techniques that are safe and well tolerated by patients. It may also offer convenience since it is delivered over a shorter period of time.

Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, Group Chair for the RTOG states, “This trial will determine the best options for women who wish to undergo breast preserving treatment and the results will impact practice patterns for the next several decades.”

To find a participating site, please call the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). In Canada, please call the Canadian Cancer Society’s Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333.

The NSABP is a not-for-profit, clinical trials cooperative group, which includes a network of over 300 professionals located in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. Research conducted by the NSABP is supported primarily by grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). For more than 40 years, the NSABP has successfully conducted large-scale randomized clinical trials in breast and colorectal cancer that have altered the standard of care for people with these diseases. Please visit www.nsabp.pitt.edu for more information.

The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) is a clinical research enterprise of the American College of Radiology (ACR), located in the ACR Philadelphia, PA office. RTOG is a multi-institutional international clinical cooperative group funded primarily by the NCI. RTOG has over 30 years of experience in conducting clinical trials and is comprised of over 250 major research institutions in the United States and Canada. The group currently is conducting more than 40 active studies that involve radiation therapy alone or in conjunction with surgery and or chemotherapeutic drugs or which investigate quality of life issues and their effects on the cancer patient. Please visit www.rtog.org for more information.

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