Comparing Proton Therapy to Photon Therapy for Liver Cancer

NRG ONCOLOGY

Advancing Research. Improving Lives.™

Visit the patient webpage for this study:

ABOUT THE TRIAL

NRG-GI003 will compare patients treated with standard photon beam radiotherapy to patients treated with proton beam radiotherapy and will determine if proton therapy is better at extending your life than photon therapy for patients that have hepatocellular carcinoma. The usual treatment for your type of liver cancer is radiotherapy with a photon beam. Another form of radiotherapy is with a proton beam which uses proton particles to send the radiation inside the body to the tumor. This trial will be comparing the usual treatment to the proton beam radiotherapy. Additionally, the trial will compare the side effects of the two different types of radiotherapy.

ABOUT NRG ONCOLOGY

As one of the five research groups in the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), NRG Oncology carries out clinical trials on sex-specific malignancies, including gynecologic, breast, and prostate cancers, and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types. NRG Oncology's extensive research organization includes investigators, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, physicists, pathologists, and statisticians. The NRG Oncology includes more than 1,300 research sites worldwide, primarily in the United States and Canada. NRG Oncology is a non-profit research organization, funded mainly through grants from the NCI. To contact NRG Oncology, call 267-519-6630 or email info@nrgoncology.org

VERSION DATE: 2/18/2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a clinical trial?
Clinical trials are research studies that look to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat disease.

Who can join this study?
In addition to having hepatocellular carcinoma, there are other eligibility requirements to participate in this study. Your doctor can determine if you meet these requirements.

Am I required to be in this study?
No. Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to choose to participate or not to participate. If you choose to participate in this study, you are able to leave the study at any time. If you decide not to take part in this study, your doctor will discuss other treatment options with you.

What are the possible treatments?
All patients will be randomly assigned to two separate treatment groups. Group 1 will receive proton radiation therapy for the usual length of time at the usual total dose for this type of cancer, as recommended by your treating physician. This may be 5 treatments over two weeks or 15 treatments over three weeks. Group 2 will receive photon radiation therapy for the usual length of time at the usual total dose for this type of cancer, as recommended by your treating physician. This may be 5 treatments over two weeks or 15 treatments over three weeks.

How long will I be in this study?
You will receive radiation for the usual length (5 or 15 treatments over a period of 15 to 24 days) unless you can no longer tolerate the treatment. After you finish the radiation therapy, your doctor will continue to watch you for side effects and follow your condition for 5 years.

Are there side effects?
Possible risks for patients who receive radiation therapy include tiredness, swelling, redness, and/or sores in the area of radiation. Some more serious risks include nausea, vomiting, pain, internal bleeding, diarrhea, gas, blockage of the stomach, broken bones, bruising, and bleeding. Your doctor will review all of the potential side effects with you.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the National Cancer Institute website at https://www.cancer.gov for more information about studies or general information about cancer.

You may also call: 1-(800)-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).