

Comparing two cisplatin dosing schedules combined with radiation for patients with advanced head and neck cancer

NRG
ONCOLOGY

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webpage for this
study:



ABOUT THE TRIAL

NRG-HN009 is a clinical study for patients who have advanced head and neck cancer. This study compares two schedules of the chemotherapy drug, cisplatin, given every three weeks versus every week with radiation for patients with this type of disease.

The study has two parts: the first part of the study will help doctors determine if cisplatin given every week is better tolerated by patients and has fewer side effects associated with the treatment. The second part of the trial will also help study doctors find out if the cisplatin given every week will extend your life by at least the same amount of time as the cisplatin given every three weeks. It is not yet possible to know if the cisplatin given every week will cause fewer side effects or be as good at extending your life compared to the other usual approach giving cisplatin every three weeks.

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 gender-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

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?

Patients over the age of 18 with advanced head and neck cancer.

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?

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be assigned to one of two study groups depending on the location of your head and neck cancer and if you have oropharynx cancer or cancer of unknown primary origin that is related to human papillomavirus (HPV). Both study groups will receive the same treatment options. Patients in both groups will either get radiation for 7 weeks and cisplatin every 3 weeks for up to 7 weeks, or you will get radiation for 7 weeks and cisplatin every week for up to 7 weeks.

How long will I be in this study?

Both groups will receive their treatment for 7 weeks.

After you finish treatment, your doctor will continue to follow your condition and watch you for side effects. They will check you at 1 month after treatment ends and then every 3 months for 2 years after treatment. After that, they will check you every 6 months for 3 years, then annually.

Are there side effects?

There may be some. The most common side effects of cisplatin include infection, bruising or bleeding, anemia, kidney damage, hearing loss, nausea or vomiting, confusion, numbness, or pain and tingling in the fingers, toes, arms and/or legs, and loss of balance. The most common side effects of head and neck radiation include sores, dry mouth, thick saliva, hoarseness, skin changes, pain or pressure in the ear, tiredness, weight loss, permanent hair loss, and cavities or tooth decay. Your doctor will review all 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).