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RADIATION THERAPY ONCOLOGY GROUP

RTOG-RFA-0617-TRP-2012

Request for Applications for RTOG 0617 Biospecimens

KEY DATES

Release Date: April 27, 2012
Application Due Date: May 21, 2012, 5 PM (ET) (via email)
Notice of Award: August 17, 2012. Notification of RTOG approval.
Project Start Date: Projects must begin no later than September 30, 2013 and must be completed within one year of start date.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – *see protocol at rtog.org for complete information*

This RFA issued by the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group solicits applications to conduct translational research using material obtained from the RTOG clinical trial 0617: *A Randomized Phase III Comparison of Standard-Dose (60 Gy) Versus Highdose (74 Gy) Conformal Radiotherapy with Concurrent and Consolidation Carboplatin/Paclitaxel ± Cetuximab (IND #103444) in Patients with Stage IIIA/IIIB Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer*.

The study opened November 27, 2007, and closed November 22, 2011, after meeting protocol-specified accrual objectives. The primary objectives of the trial were:

- To compare the overall survival of patients treated with high-dose versus standard-dose conformal radiation therapy in the setting of concurrent chemotherapy;
- To compare the overall survival of patients treated with cetuximab versus without cetuximab in the setting of concurrent chemotherapy.

The study was revised on October 14, 2008 to add two additional arms to evaluate the addition of cetuximab to both arms. At the first protocol-specified interim analysis of radiation dose and overall survival, it was found that a futility boundary had been crossed. Following DMC approval, the high dose radiation arms, Arm B and Arm D, were closed to accrual on June 17, 2011 (although at that time, over 80% of accrual and radiation treatment had been completed). The trial is continuing towards completion of follow-up to address the other primary question concerning efficacy of cetuximab.

Primary Objectives

- To compare progression-free survival (PFS) and local-regional tumor control between high-dose versus standard-dose radiation therapy and between concurrent cetuximab versus no cetuximab
- To compare the toxicity of high-dose versus standard-dose conformal radiation therapy in the setting of concurrent chemotherapy with or without cetuximab

Secondary Objectives for Translational Research

- To explore biological markers to predict clinical outcome including survival, distant metastasis, local-regional control, quality of life including toxicity in patients with stage III NSCLC treated with conventional dose (60 Gy) and high dose (74 Gy) radiation therapy in the setting of concurrent chemotherapy with or without cetuximab
- To prospectively collect and bank tissue specimen, blood and urine samples for future biomarker analyses in predicting clinical outcome including survival, distant metastasis, local regional control, and quality of life in patients with stage III NSCLC treated with conventional dose (60) Gy and high dose (74 Gy) radiation therapy in the setting of concurrent chemotherapy with or without cetuximab
- To investigate associations between EGFR expression and toxicity, response, overall survival, and progression-free survival.

ELIGIBLE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS & ORGANIZATIONS

All investigator from any organization (nonprofit or for profit) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. All information is public – the application and instructions and the biospecimen inventory are posted on the RTOG website. Investigators not previously collaborating with RTOG are encouraged to undertake cooperative investigations. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- RTOG has limited funding for project support; applications must include proof of funding for 100% of project costs.
- Investigators submitting a grant for funding may request a Letter of Support from RTOG. Please see the RTOG Letter of Support Policy (http://www.rtog.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KqBQpNQ9GeY%3d&tabid=90)

- Investigators with grant, departmental or other funds to cover 100% of project costs should include, with the application, a budget for all aspects of proposed research including technical support, supplies and equipment, specimen preparation and shipping, as well as investigator and research staff salaries. Documentation of funding must be provided with the Application for Specimens.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Review Committee considers each application independently. ***Proposals with hypotheses that reflect secondary trial endpoints will be given top priority.*** Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Extent to which the proposed hypothesis(es) address an important translational question
- Extent to which the proposed hypothesis(es) address RTOG 0617 study endpoints
- Degree to which the project will impact the understanding and treatment of malignancies
- Whether the project is designed appropriately to provide answers to the research questions posed
- Originality and level of innovation
- Availability of required biospecimen material
- Research credentials of the investigative group
- Contribution of the institution to the likelihood of success of the project

REVIEW PROCESS

1. External Review Team reviews applications on the Evaluation Criteria and scores project on a 5 point scale. Projects with a score of 3 or higher move to next phase.
2. Internal Review Team comprised of RTOG investigators and research staff prioritize high-scoring projects during a face-to-face Reviewer's Conference on 6/15/2012 at the RTOG June semiannual meeting.
3. The RTOG Biospecimen Resource and Statisticians review applications for tissue availability and statistical feasibility. During this phase, investigators may be requested to provide clarification or modifications in technique, biospecimen request and/or other research aspects.
4. Applications that pass the tissue availability and statistical feasibility stage are submitted to the RTOG Steering Committee for scoring according to Evaluation Criteria. Applications with an average score of 2.5 or better move to Step 5. Applicants will be notified of RTOG approval/disapproval after this step.
5. Applications submitted to the Clinical Trials Evaluation Program (CTEP) of the National Cancer Institute for final approval. *Investigators should allow at least 4 months for the CTEP review process which must be completed prior to release of specimens.*

APPLICATION/REQUEST FOR SPECIMENS

1. To submit a proposal in answer to this RFA complete the RTOG TRP Application Form found at: http://www.rtog.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=HWcYsxGHL_U%3d&tabid=90
2. Please check the online specimen inventory for RTOG 0617 prior to completing the application – click here: http://www.rtog.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=uFKo8GwhrI8%3d&tabid=90
3. Submit application by email to RTOG Headquarters (RTOG-TRP@acr.org).

INQUIRIES & OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFA MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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