
The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, known as RTOG, is a national cancer research organization funded by the National Cancer Institute. RTOG member investigators come from over 300 of the leading academic and community medical facilities in the United States, Canada, and internationally.

The RTOG has played a key role in the development of new cancer treatments for over 40 years. The group's goal is to increase survival and improve the quality of life for patients diagnosed with cancer.

Over 60 RTOG staff members provide administrative, data management, statistical, quality assurance, and protocol development support for group investigators. The administrative and biostatistical staff is headquartered in the American College of Radiology Clinical Research Center in Philadelphia. RTOG receives National Cancer Institute funding as well as corporate support.

RTOG Headquarters
1818 Market Street, Suite 1600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 574-3189

www.rtog.org

Radiation Therapy Oncology Group
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 2009



RTOG is funded by NCI Grants CA21661, CA32115 and CA37422

RTOG 0436

A Phase III Trial Evaluating the Addition of Cetuximab to Paclitaxel, Cisplatin, and Radiation for Patients With Esophageal Cancer Who Are Treated Without Surgery

RTOG Principal Investigators

Mohan Suntharalingam, MD
University of Maryland School of
Medicine

David Ilson, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Lisa Kachnic, MD
Boston University Medical Center

Adam P. Dicker, MD, PhD
Thomas Jefferson University

André Konski, MD
Fox Chase Cancer Center

CETUXIMAB

for patients with

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER

RTOG 0436

Can adding cetuximab to chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatments help patients with esophageal cancer live longer and/or better?

*Information for
Patients*

RTOG[®]
RADIATION THERAPY
ONCOLOGY GROUP

Frequently Asked Questions

You are being asked to take part in this study because you have esophageal cancer that can be treated with a combination of chemotherapy and radiation.

Cetuximab is a drug that has been shown to delay or prevent tumor growth in patients with other types of cancer. Researchers want to find out if giving cetuximab will benefit patients with cancer of the esophagus when given with regular treatment (chemotherapy and radiation). They also want to find out what effects, good and/or bad, the addition of cetuximab will have on the patient.

Your institution is participating in this trial sponsored by the RTOG. Approximately 420 esophageal cancer patients from the United States and Canada are expected to take part in this study.

Joining this study is entirely voluntary. If you are interested in participating, or have additional questions, please talk to your doctor.

What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials are research studies that researchers use to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer. Researchers use clinical trials to learn about many patients who have a similar cancer and who are treated in a similar way, so researchers can study the treatments in a scientific way.

Who can join this study?

In addition to having esophageal cancer, there are other requirements to be in this study. Ask your doctor if being in this study might help you.

What are the possible treatments?

All patients will receive radiation therapy once a day, 5 days a week, for 5½ weeks. All patients will also receive chemotherapy once a week for 6 weeks. Half of the patients will receive cetuximab in addition to their radiation and chemotherapy. Cetuximab will be given once a week for 6 weeks.

Will I receive the standard or experimental treatment?

Radiation and chemotherapy are currently used to treat this type of cancer but cetuximab is not. Neither you nor your doctor can choose if you will also receive cetuximab. The treatment you will receive will be determined by a computer program.

You will have a 50% chance of receiving cetuximab.

Are there side effects?

Possible risks for all patients who receive radiation and chemotherapy for esophageal cancer include fatigue, decreased blood counts, skin tanning, redness or soreness, hair loss, diarrhea, abdominal pain, weight loss, nausea and/or vomiting. Possible risks for patients receiving cetuximab include weakness, headache, fever, low calcium and/or magnesium in the blood. Your doctor will review all of the side effects with you.

How often will I be seen?

You will receive treatment with radiation and drug therapy for approximately 6 weeks. Once you have completed the treatment, you will see your study doctor for follow-up visits every 4 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 2 years and finally once every year for the rest of your life.

How much will it cost?

The treatment costs for this study are generally considered part of normal cancer care and will be billed to your insurance carrier. As with all cancer therapies, expenses not covered by your insurance or Medicare may be billed to you. The drug cetuximab will be provided at no cost to you.