



## MCC To Host Partial Breast Irradiation Study

Missouri Cancer Care is participating in the largest clinical trial of partial-breast irradiation to date.

The randomized phase III study will determine whether partial breast irradiation following lumpectomy provides local tumor control equivalent to conventional whole breast irradiation in the management of early-stage breast cancer. Specifically, the study will compare overall survival, recurrence-free survival and distant disease-free survival of both groups.

Its implications are significant for women with stage 0, I and II breast cancer.

"This is a national, NIH-sponsored intergroup trial that evaluates the ideal method to deliver radiation after breast-conservation surgery," said Lannis Hall-Daniels, M.D., radiation oncologist with Missouri Cancer Care and principal investigator of the local study.

For the past three decades, whole breast irradiation has been the standard of care following breast conserving surgery in women with early stage disease. "However, several institutions have evaluated partial breast irradiation and the results are promising. The outcome of this study may lead to a major advance-

ment in treatment since the radiation is delivered in one week instead of six," continued Dr. Hall-Daniels.

The key issue of the study revolves around the duration of treatment. The trial

will compare the efficacy of the six-week traditional approach of whole breast irradiation against the five-day regimen of partial breast irradiation administered to the affected quadrant i.e. the post-surgical lumpectomy bed plus a two-centimeter margin.

The study will also evaluate three types of partial-breast irradiation techniques: interstitial brachytherapy, balloon catheter brachytherapy and 3-D conformal irradiation. Presently, only 3-D conformal irradiation is available through the local study.

Missouri Cancer Care will open its enrollment later

this year. The study will enroll 3000 women nationally over the next two years.

Physicians interested in referring patients or with questions about the local study should contact MCC's research department at (636) 442-7300 or Dr. Hall-Daniels. ■

### Who Is A Candidate

In general, a woman must meet the following criteria for consideration in the partial-breast irradiation trial:

- Early stage breast cancer (i.e. stage 0, I or II)
- Ductal carcinoma in situ or invasive adenocarcinoma
- A 3cm tumor or less
- Undergone a lumpectomy
- Three or less histologically positive axillary nodes.

## MCC Pharmacy Service Now Available Aiming to improve patient compliance, outcomes and convenience

Oncology-trained pharmacist to provide follow-up

Missouri Cancer Care (MCC) has initiated a specialty pharmacy providing oncology and hematology medications, and related supplies. The pharmacy processes prescriptions and claims, and arranges delivery of these products to patients' homes, or to the office of their oncologist for pick up there. The goals of the pharmacy are to boost patient compliance with prescribed medications, and to provide a patient convenience.

Medications are offered at reduced prices, when possible, because the Missouri Cancer Care pharmacy orders directly from oncology drug makers. However, financial assistance for specific pharmaceutical products is also available to patients who are eligible for additional aid.

Other program benefits include individualized patient education and compliance monitoring by an oncology-trained pharmacist. Providing this follow-up care is Paul H. Bricker, R.Ph., a research and practice pharmacist with MCC. Bricker routinely interacts with MCC

patients and their oncologists, alerting them when — and if — intervention strategies are needed.

Although the pharmacy program office is staffed five days a week, Bricker is available by cell phone 24/7.

"By virtue of our knowledge of these complex drugs, we feel we can provide patients superior quality of service," said Bricker.

The Missouri Cancer Care pharmaceutical service is developed upon a business model called a "closed-door" pharmacy, which serves a finite population — in this case, MCC patients.

Patient participation is simple with no forms to complete. Most facets of the program are handled over the telephone. ■



Paul H. Bricker, R.Ph.

## New Oncologist/Hematologist

Anna Roshal, M.D., a board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist, recently joined Missouri Cancer Care.



Anna Roshal, M.D.

Dr. Roshal is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York. She served her residency at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she received its outstanding resident educator award. A fellowship at Wilmot Cancer Center, also in Rochester, followed. Dr. Roshal was subsequently in private practice in Indiana, where she delivered numerous presentations on breast cancer to patients and physicians' groups and served as a guest lecturer at Indiana University/Purdue University Indiana Medical School.

Her professional interests include the treatment and prevention of breast cancer, particularly genetic testing for women at high risk, and in optimizing treatment for early-stage breast cancer.

Dr. Roshal is originally from Belarus. ■

## From Our Point of View

You Need To Understand IMRT

A variety of news is highlighted in this edition of *Perspectives* including the availability of intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) to St. Charles County. Dr. Lannis Hall-Daniels explains the benefits of this new radiation therapy technique, which reduces toxicity associated with some of the most difficult-to-treat malignancies, specifically, tumors that sit next to or wrap around critical organs.

Other articles contained in this edition include Missouri Cancer Care participation in the largest clinical trial of partial-breast irradiation to date, and information about MCC's specialty pharmacy, which made its debut in December. Last, but not least, we welcome Anna Roshal, M.D., a board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist, who recently joined our practice. A synopsis of her professional career is contained. ■

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