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## **Ground-breaking Cancer Studies To Be Unveiled at ASTRO Annual Meeting**

October 22 – The following are selected highlights of new cancer research being presented at the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology's (ASTRO) 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Oct. 28-31, 2007, in Los Angeles.

For full copies of the studies and press releases, contact Beth Bukata at [bethb@astro.org](mailto:bethb@astro.org) or Nicole Napoli at [nicolen@astro.org](mailto:nicolen@astro.org). Each study is embargoed until the time of presentation.

### **Radiation Plus Chemo Quadruples Survival Time for Fatal Brain Cancer**

Over four times as many patients with a rapidly fatal type of brain cancer, glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), who are treated with the chemotherapy drug, temozolomide (TMZ), and radiation therapy can live for four years after diagnosis, compared to those who receive only radiation treatment, according to updated results of a large, international trial presented at the Plenary I session on October 29, 2007...

### **Cancer Patients Not Getting Live-saving Flu and Pneumonia Shots**

Although flu and pneumonia can be lethal for cancer patients, more than one quarter of patients undergoing radiation therapy are not complying with national guidelines to be vaccinated against these potentially life-threatening yet preventable illnesses, according to a study presented October 28, 2007...

### **Extra Radiation Dose Prevents Breast Cancer Return in Young Women**

Women 40 years and younger with early-stage breast cancer, who receive an additional high dose of radiation (boost dose) after undergoing breast-conserving surgery (lumpectomy) and standard radiation treatment, are almost twice as likely to be free of cancer 10 years after treatment, compared to those who don't receive the boost dose, according to a large European study presented at the Plenary I session on October 29, 2007...

### **Breast Cancer Returns More Often in Black Women**

Contrary to previous studies, African-American women with early-stage breast cancer, who have surgery to remove the cancer (lumpectomy) followed by radiation therapy, have a higher chance of their cancer coming back in the breast and lymph nodes 10 years after diagnosis, compared to their Caucasian counterparts, according to the largest study of its kind presented at a scientific session on October 29, 2007...

### **Radiation Seeds Effectively Cure Prostate Cancer in Young Men**

Radiation seed implants (brachytherapy) are just as effective at curing prostate cancer in younger men (aged 60 and younger) as it is in older men, according to a study presented at a scientific session on October 31, 2007...

### **Can Cholesterol-lowering Medicine Make Radiation More Effective at Curing Prostate Cancer?**

Patients with prostate cancer who receive high-dose radiation treatment and also take statin drugs commonly used to lower cholesterol have a 10 percent higher chance of being cured of their cancer at 10 years after diagnosis (76 percent), compared to those who don't take these medications (66 percent), according to a study presented at a scientific session on October 31, 2007...

### **Walking Prevents Bone Loss Caused from Prostate Cancer Treatment**

Exercise may reduce, and even reverse, bone loss caused by hormone and radiation therapies used in the treatment localized prostate cancer, thereby decreasing the potential risk of bone fractures and improving quality of life for these men, according to a study presented on October 28, 2007...

### **Demand for Spanish-language Cancer Web Materials Quadruples; Internet Resources and Access Remain Scarce**

Although Spanish-speaking cancer patients are rapidly increasing their search for patient education resources on the Internet, there are very few Spanish-language Web sites available to provide this information, according to a study presented October 28, 2007...

### **Patient Navigators Help Minority, Low-income Cancer Patients Get Life-saving Treatments**

Volunteers who guide low-income and minority cancer patients through cancer treatment, called lay patient navigators (LPN), help them to overcome major obstacles that prevent them from receiving quality care and achieving better outcomes, according to a study presented October 28, 2007...

### **Radiation Seed Implant Decreases Risk of Death Over Watchful Waiting**

Prostate cancer patients cut their risk of dying of the disease in half when they receive radiation seed implants (brachytherapy) to treat their cancer, compared to those who don't receive active treatment (watchful waiting/active surveillance), within six months from being diagnosed with localized prostate cancer, according to a study presented October 31, 2007...

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### **Preventing Lung Scarring May Extend Lives of Lung Cancer Patients**

Researchers have found that using a special type of drug called a pharmaceutical monoclonal antibody to block the integrin beta6-TGF-beta pathway prevents a serious side effect of radiation therapy for lung cancer patients – pulmonary fibrosis (scarring of the lungs), thereby extending patients' lives and improving their quality of life, according to a study presented at the Plenary I session on October 29, 2007...

### **Standardizing Radiation Dose in 4D CT Scans Can Reduce Lung Injury to Cancer Patients**

A new method to standardize the reporting of radiation dose volumes in the use of four-dimensional computed tomography (4D-CT) can lead to a more accurate radiation dose to the lungs in lung cancers, thereby lowering the risk of lung injury, according to a study presented at the Plenary I session on October 29, 2007...

*ASTRO is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with 9,000 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, biology and physics, the Society is dedicated to improving patient care through education, clinical practice, advancement of science and advocacy.*

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