ASTRO Board of Directors approves statement on use of proton beam therapy for prostate cancer

Fairfax, Va., March 13, 2013 – At a recent meeting, ASTRO’s Board of Directors approved the following statement regarding the use of proton beam therapy for prostate cancer:

“While proton beam therapy is not a new technology, its use in the treatment of prostate cancer is evolving. ASTRO strongly supports allowing for coverage with evidence development for patients treated on clinical trials or within prospective registries. ASTRO believes that collecting data in these settings is essential to informing consensus on the role of proton therapy for prostate cancer, especially insofar as it is important to understand how the effectiveness of proton therapy compares to other radiation therapy modalities such as IMRT and brachytherapy.”

“The comparative efficacy evidence of proton beam therapy is still being developed,” said Michael L. Steinberg, MD, FASTRO, ASTRO chairman. “We look forward to new and innovative research that will more clearly define the role of proton beam therapy for localized prostate cancer among the currently available treatment options.”

ABOUT ASTRO

ASTRO is the premier radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 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. For more information on radiation therapy, visit www.rtanswers.org. To learn more about ASTRO, visit www.astro.org.

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