

Do you have pain from the spread of cancer to your bones?

Participating in a pain reduction study may help.

If you are reading this brochure, you may be experiencing severe pain from cancer that has spread (metastasized) from another area of your body to your bones.

Pain from cancer that has spread to bones is usually treated with radiation therapy and chemotherapy. These treatments often take a long time and may not be right for every patient.

Doctors have known for a long time that heat will kill cancer cells. Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) is a way to kill cancer cells by heating them. Research has shown that RFA treatment of cancer cells that have spread to bone may lessen pain.

You can choose to participate in a study organized by ACRIN to see if destroying clumps of cancer cells which have spread to your bone (bone metastasis) with RFA will reduce your pain. It is expected that 75 patients from across the country will take part in this trial.

Participating Facilities

[Click here for contact information](#)

The American College of Radiology Imaging Network, known as ACRIN, is a national cancer research organization sponsored and funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). It is made up of investigators at over 100 leading medical facilities from across the United States.

The goal of ACRIN is to improve the health, longevity and quality of life of cancer patients through the use of diagnostic imaging and image-guided treatment procedures.

ACRIN is headquartered in the Philadelphia office of the American College of Radiology. The Biostatistics Center is under the direction of Constantine Gatsonis, Ph.D. of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is radiofrequency ablation?

Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) involves destroying tissue with heat.

In this study the doctor inserts a thin, needle probe through a tiny puncture in the skin to the pain-related cancer. The doctor is guided by a computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or ultrasound image.



Radio waves are sent through the probe. The radio waves generate heat at the probe's end where it touches the cancer cells. The cancer cells are heated for approximately 12 minutes, which kills them. A large clump of cells may take two treatments, which are given at the same time.

Who can take part in the study?

You can take part in this study if you:

- have ongoing severe pain from cancer that has spread to your bones
- are age 18 or older
- have only one pain-related metastasis that is no larger than 8 cm (about 3 inches).

Am I conscious during the procedure?

You are sedated during the RFA. In addition, you are given a local pain killer where the probe is inserted. You will most likely be able to go home on the same day.

Are there side effects?

No serious side effects are likely although unexpected problems can occur. Your doctor or the research study doctor or nurse can provide details about potential side effects

What kind of follow-up is there?

You will have follow up appointments one week, one month and three months after the RFA procedure.

How much will it cost?

You will not be charged for the RFA, however some of the other costs of taking part in this study may be billed to Medicare or your insurance company. The study doctor or nurse can let you know if there are additional costs.

ACRIN Protocol 6661: A Phase I/II Study of Percutaneous Radiofrequency Ablation of Bone Metastases Using CT Guidance

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[Click here for a list of participating facilities and contact information.](#)
