

Treatment of Liver Cancer with Ablation

A Study for Patients Who have Liver Cancer and Cirrhosis

Study Information

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If you have liver cancer and cirrhosis, you may be able to join a study to find out whether radiofrequency ablation (RFA) can destroy the tumor or tumors in your liver.

Researchers are investigating whether RFA can help people who cannot have their tumors removed by surgery. RFA uses radiofrequency waves to kill cancer cells and is part of regular cancer care at many hospitals. However, it may be done more often in this study.

The goal of this study is to find out how well RFA is able to destroy tumors in people with liver cancer. Researchers hope that the results of this study will help doctors know how best to treat patients with liver cancer in the future.

You should talk with your insurance company about what costs they will pay for if you join the study. Joining this study is entirely voluntary.

This study is funded by the National Cancer Institute and coordinated by the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Radiofrequency Ablation?

Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) uses electrical energy to make radiofrequency waves. Those waves heat tissues and can kill cancer cells and normal cells. In RFA, your doctor places a special needle (called an electrode) into the tumor. This needle is heated to a high temperature to kill cells. Small tumors may be destroyed with one treatment, but larger ones may need more than one. The whole procedure takes between 1 and 3 hours. The procedure may need to be repeated if the cancer grows back.

Who can join this study?

You may be able to join this study if:

- you have cirrhosis
- you have a kind of liver cancer called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
- you cannot have surgery to remove your tumor(s)
- you have not already had treatment for your liver cancer
- your doctor thinks RFA can be used to treat your cancer

Who cannot join the study?

You cannot join the study if:

- you are under 18 years of age
- you are pregnant
- you can have surgery to remove your tumor
- you have already been treated for your liver cancer
- you have tumors outside of your liver.

What if I choose to join this study?

Your doctor or a nurse will talk with you about joining the study. You will be given information called an "informed consent form" that will tell you about all the study procedures and the possible risks and benefits.

During the study, you will have exam and tests that are part of normal cancer care. You will also have an RFA treatment. After you are done with your RFA treatment, you will have a CT scan of your liver. The study staff will call you several times afterward to see how you are doing.

How long will I be in this study?

If you join the study, you will come back for tests and a CT scan every 3 months for 18 months (1.5 years). If any tumor is found in your liver on the CT scan after the first treatment, the tumor may be treated again as part of this study. Repeat RFA may occur for 15 months after your first RFA treatment if your study doctor thinks it would help you. Study staff will call you to see how you are doing after any repeat RFA treatments. Remember, you can decide to stop being in this study at any time.

What happens if my cancer returns after 15 months?

You should discuss with your physician what the best treatment may be for you if this happens. You may be able to have a repeat RFA, but it will not be part of the study after 15 months. Also, you and your physician may decide that another kind of treatment is the best action.



The American College of Radiology Imaging Network, also known as ACRIN, is a national cancer research organization sponsored by the National Cancer Institute that includes investigators at over 100 leading medical facilities in North America and abroad.



The goal of ACRIN is to improve the quality and length of life for cancer patients by conducting studies to evaluate medical imaging procedures.

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