



A study at the heart of breastcancer treatment

This study compares two types of radiation therapy for your breast cancer: PHoton therapy (pronouced "fo-tahn") and PRoton therapy (pronouced "pro-tahn").

To learn more about the study

If you are interested to learn more about the study, talk with your doctor, visit us at www.radcomp.org or contact:

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A study comparing two types of radiation therapy for breast cancer

Breast cancer survivors who have had radiation therapy helped us put this study together. They told us they were most concerned about things like heart problems after therapy and how radiation might affect the quality or length of their lives.



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What is radiation therapy for breast cancer?

External beam radiation therapy is a cancer treatment that aims a beam (or many beams) of radiation through the skin to the breast or chest wall and the

surrounding area to destroy cancer cells. When you receive radiation, a large machine aims the radiation and moves around you without touching you. Radiation therapy after surgery plays an important role in the treatment of breast cancer. Both PHoton therapy and PRoton therapy are FDA-approved radiation treatments and are on the cutting-edge of cancer therapy.

What is this study about?

This study is being conducted at many medical centers around the country to compare PHoton therapy and

PRoton therapy — to find out which type of radiation is best for treating your type of breast cancer. Because there may be radiation to parts of the heart during therapy, radiation therapy may increase your chances of having heart problems in the future. PRoton therapy reduces the amount of heart exposed to radiation, so it has the potential to reduce heart problems compared to PHoton therapy. But so far, there have not yet been enough patients with breast cancer treated with PRoton therapy. Doctors do not know if one type of radiation is better, about the same, or worse in terms of side effects, cure rates, length of life or quality of life after radiation.

What is the difference between PHoton therapy and PRoton therapy?

Both PHoton therapy and PRoton therapy are types of radiation that deliver similar radiation doses to your chest wall or breast tissue and the immediate surrounding lymph node areas in front

of the heart, above the collar bone and/or below the armpit. The chart below describes and compares each type of radiation.

Treatment	PHoton Therapy	PRoton Therapy
Potential Benefits	<p>Widely used to treat breast cancer for many years</p> <p>Short- and long-term risks and benefits are well-documented</p> <p>Doctors can aim and shape the radiation beams to treat your cancer</p>	<p>Passes through healthy tissues as it enters the body (like PHoton therapy) but stops after it has reached the target areas (unlike PHoton therapy)</p> <p>This may cause less radiation damage to healthy tissue, like parts of the heart</p> <p>Doctors can aim and shape the radiation beams to treat your cancer</p>
Potential Risks	<p>Passes through healthy tissues on its way to AND beyond the tumor target</p> <p>Healthy tissue, like parts of the heart or lungs, can be damaged by the radiation, possibly causing side effects</p> <p>Your skin may react to the radiation and the look and feel of your breast, breast implant or chest wall may change</p>	<p>Healthy tissue, like parts of the heart or lungs, can be damaged by the radiation, possibly causing side effects</p> <p>Your skin may react to the radiation and the look and feel of your breast, breast implant or chest wall may change</p> <p>Short- and long-term risks and benefits are not as well-documented as PHoton therapy</p>

What happens if you take part in the study?

If you decide to take part in this study, a computer will randomly assign you to 1 of 2 groups. You have an equal chance of getting into either group, like a coin flip. Both you

and your doctor will be told which therapy you will get.

GROUP 1 Receives PHoton therapy once a day, 5 days a week, for 5 to 7 weeks

GROUP 2 Receives PRoton therapy once a day, 5 days a week, for 5 to 7 weeks

No matter which group you are in, your doctors will work very carefully to reduce the radiation to your healthy tissues and you will receive any other care chosen by you and/or your doctors. Both groups will be followed for at least 10 years after completing radiation therapy.

You may have side effects with either radiation therapy.

Anyone who receives treatment for breast cancer may have side effects from radiation. Your doctor will explain these side effects in detail.