



Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation



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Mark Agulnik, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dear Steele Family & Friends:

Thank you and the Christopher Steele Foundation for your continued support of my sarcoma research programs. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed with the recent developments of my research.

We continue to see a large volume of sarcoma patients and have several exciting clinical trials to offer them. We remain active and enthusiastic about the progress currently being made. As of July, 2010, our sarcoma program at Northwestern completed four clinical trials; both phase II and phase III, and have six clinical trials currently in development, which will open in one to three months. We are currently accruing patients on one active trial.


I had the opportunity to present the results of an open-label multicenter phase II study of bevacizumab for the treatment of angiosarcoma at both the 2009 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) national meetings.

The study was a two-stage design in which patients with newly diagnosed or relapsed and refractory angiosarcomas and epithelioid hemangioendotheliomas were treated with bevacizumab (Avastin) every 3 weeks. Treatment was continued until progression or unacceptable toxicity occurred. This study concluded that bevacizumab monotherapy for angiosarcoma resulted in a response rate of 12% and tumor stabilization achieved by 62% of patients. Further studies with bevacizumab in combination with chemotherapy should be explored in this disease.

The database continues to collect data on all active patients. Two of my thirty published articles include New Therapy Options in Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors, published in *Oncology* and Molecularly Targeted Therapies in Soft Tissue Sarcoma: Current Approach and Future Directions, published in *Expert Opinion on Therapeutic Targets*. Published abstracts on my research include An open-label multicenter phase II study of bevacizumab for the treatment of angiosarcomas, *The Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Issue #27, 2009; A phase I study of the oral platinum agent satraplatin (S) in with capecitabine (C) in patients with advanced solid malignancies, *The Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Issue #26, 2008; and Cutaneous Sarcoma: Case Report and Comprehensive Review of the Literature, from the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) Annual Meeting.

Again, on behalf of my staff and those who will benefit from your generous donation, I thank you.

Sincerely,


Mark Agulnik, MD
Assistant Professor

cc: David Sack, Director, Northwestern Memorial Foundation



A multispecialty group practice of the full-time faculty at The Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University