Title

CALGB 70602—Individual and supra-individual effects in lung cancer clinical trial outcomes: A CALGB pilot analysis

Simple title: CALGB 70602: A lung cancer study that compared the results of chemotherapy (drug) treatment based on where it was given to patients

Why the study was done

Researchers wanted to find out if lung cancer patients that were on clinical trials from Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) lived as long when they were treated in different places.

Lung cancer patients who joined CALGB clinical trials, received treatment in one kind of place:

- academic medical center (large hospitals)
- community medical center (small hospitals or doctors' offices)
- veterans administration medical center (VA hospitals)

Patients from large hospitals and doctor's offices were more alike, and often made more money than the VA patients. VA patients were more likely to be older, male, Black, make less money, and be sicker (low performance status). Researchers wanted to know if patients who were treated at a VA hospital would live as long as patients given the same treatment at other locations (large hospitals or doctors' offices).

Here is a chart that shows the kinds of patients at the different treatment places:

Patient description	Large hospital	Smaller hospital	VA hospital
Age (years)	61	62	64
Race			
White	Over 8 in 10 people (84%)	Almost 9 in 10 people (89%)	Over 8 in 10 people (83%)
Black	Over 1 in 10 people (13%)	Less than 1 in 10 people (8%)	Almost 2 in 10 people (17%)
Other	Less than 1 in 10 people (3%)	Less than 1 in 10 people (3%)	None (0%)
Patients living in poor areas (%)	About 1 in 10 people (13%)	About 1 in 10 people (12%)	Between 1-2 in 10 people (15%)
Overall health or performance status (%)			
Normal	Almost 4 in 10 people (37%)	Almost 5 in 10 people (46%)	Less than 3 in 10 people (27%)
Less than Normal	Over 5 in 10 people (53%)	Between 4-5 in 10 people (45%)	Over 5 in 10 people (56%)
More than half of their time spent out of bed	Almost 1 in 10 people (9%)	Almost 1 in 10 people (8%)	Between 1-2 in 10 people (16%)

When did the study start and end? This study looked at patients who joined CALGB lung cancer clinical trials between 1990 and 2003.

How many patients participated? 2,708 lung cancer patients who were in one of 10 lung cancer clinical trials were part of this study.

Study results

Important findings: In these clinical trials, large hospitals treated over four in 10 people (44 percent), smaller hospitals treated over four in 10 people (44 percent), and VA hospitals treated over one in 10 people (12 percent). The three treatment places had patients with different ages, race, sex, and level of health problems (performance status). When similar patients were compared to each other, there was no difference in how long patients lived, no matter where they were treated.

What the results mean

In CALGB clinical trials for lung cancer treatment, the place where patients are treated does not make a difference in how long patients live. No matter where people were treated, patients who were older and had more health problems (low performance status) did not live as long as younger patients with normal health.

These results are for lung cancer patients who are at least 18 years old and get treated in North America.

Scientific publications about this study

Details about the study can be found in this article:

- Differences in clinical trial patient attributes and outcomes according to enrollment setting
  Lamont EB, Landrum MB, Keating NL, Archer L, Lan L, Strauss GM, Lilenbaum R, Niell HB, Maurer LH, Kosty MP, Miller AA, Clamon GH, Elias AD, McClay EF, Vokes EE, McNeil BJ
  Journal of Clinical Oncology 28(2):215-221, 2010

You can also talk with your doctor for more information.

This sheet reviews what is known about this research study as of March 2011. New Information may be available.

This study was sponsored by the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB; www.calgb.org) – a national cooperative group that runs large-scale cancer clinical trials. The CALGB is supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and brings together scientists to develop better treatments for cancer. Funding for this study was also provided by the Massachusetts General Hospital Dorothy Claflin Award and Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Policy and Planning Contract No. RFQ 101-35-04 to Abt Associates and Harvard Medical School.

Research studies (or clinical trials) are done to learn what works better for people in order to find, treat, or prevent cancers. Thank you for your interest in learning more about cancer research advances.