What this study is about

This study reviewed a pain survey to see how it measured pain in men with a kind of prostate cancer that spread in their body (metastatic) and was called castrate-resistant.

The official title of this study is: CALGB 70903 (Alliance) Application of advanced statistical methodology to explore psychometric properties of the Brief Pain Inventory, a patient-reported outcome measurement instrument

Why the study was done

Information (called "data") collected from a past research study with prostate cancer patients was reviewed in three ways to see if a survey called the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) truly measured the level of pain that patients felt. They studied how pain hindered a patient's everyday life, both in how they functioned and how pain changed their mood.

The pain survey was used in an older study (CALGB 9840). Prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic) can be painful. Some treatments for prostate cancer stop male hormones that might help cancer grow, but when the treatment does not work, it is called castrate-resistant. The CALGB 9840 study looked at how a drug called suramin (Germanin®**)** worked at low, medium, or high doses when used as treatment for patients with castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Researchers reviewed the answers that patients gave in three different ways to see if they could get the same results. This was done after the treatment study was over.

When did the study start and end? Both studies started in February 1996. All patients were enrolled by July 1998.

How many patients joined? 184 patients agreed to be in the pain study.

Study results

Important findings:

The Brief Pain Inventory can be used to measure how much cancer pain interferes with everyday life, including mood and work issues.

- Over 76 out of 100 men (76.7%) were white. 17 out of 100 men (16.9%) were black.
- They were able to assess total pain using 11 questions.
- The answers were able to show how much pain a patient was in at different times.
- The answers showed how a patient could or could not function in their everyday life.
- The answers showed the kind of mood that a patient was in over time, based on their pain level.

What the results mean

This means cancer pain can be correctly measured with the Brief Pain Inventory survey. It is an important way to get information from patients.

These results are for men who had pain while being treated for castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Scientific publications about this study

Details about the study can be found in these articles:

- **Measurement of Affective and Activity Pain Interference Using the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI): Cancer and Leukemia Group B 70903**
  Atkinson TM, Halabi S, Bennett AV, Rogak L, Sit L, Li Y, Kaplan E, Basch E, for the Cancer and Leukemia Group B
  Pain Medicine, 13, 2012:1417-1424
- **Prognostic significance of plasma chromogranin A Levels in patients with hormone-refractory prostate cancer treated in Cancer and Leukemia Group B 9480 study**
  Taplin M-E, George DJ, Halabi S, et al

Urology 2005;66:386–91

- **Randomized study of three different doses of suramin administered with a fixed dosing schedule in patients with advanced prostate cancer: Results of Intergroup 0159, Cancer and Leukemia Group B 9480**
  Small EJ, Halabi S, Ratain MJ, et al
  J Clin Oncol 2002;20:3369–75
- **The prognostic significance of plasma interleukin-6 levels in patients with metastatic hormone-refractory prostate cancer: Results from Cancer and Leukemia Group B 9480.**
  George DJ, Halabi S, Shepard TF, et al.
  Clin Cancer Res 2005;11:1815–20

This study was sponsored by the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB), which is part of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology – a national cooperative network that runs large cancer clinical trials. The Alliance is supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and brings researchers together to develop better treatments for cancers. More information about the Alliance is at http://www.allianceforclinicaltrialsinoncology.org.

This summary lists what is known about this research study as of October 2014. New Information may be available.

We thank the people who joined this study and made it possible. *This study could have been completed faster if more people who had the opportunity to participate would have done so. If you know people who are offered the chance to join a cancer clinical trial, please encourage them to enroll. We do research to try to learn the best ways to help patients. The people who joined this study helped us to do that.*

Thank you for your interest in learning more about cancer research advances. We appreciate your advocating for federally-funded research to your elected representatives