



Clinical Trials Winter 2012

- **Measurable Melanoma, Osteosarcoma, Soft Tissue Sarcoma, or Squamous Cell Carcinoma:** Veterinary Cancer Group of Los Angeles in cooperation with Animal Clinical Investigations currently enrolling dogs for nationwide fully funded clinical trial to evaluate a novel cancer treatment for measurable melanoma, OSA, STS, or SCC. Goal of this therapy is to specifically target the tumor and induce an inflammatory response. The proposed benefit of such a response is to shrink existing tumors and reduce or eliminate microscopic cancer cells that may not be visible by standard (or any) means. The purpose of this study is to assess the safety and potential effectiveness of this therapeutic agent in dogs.
- **B cell lymphoma:** Utilizes a novel, non-chemotherapeutic agent designed specifically for canine B cell lymphoma. Agents of this nature have been used successfully in people with lymphoma, adjacent to chemotherapy, and as a maintenance treatment. Aside from initial consultation to determine eligibility, trial is fully funded for naïve, untreated cases.
- **Osteosarcoma:** Actively enrolling dogs with OSA into a partially funded, multi-institutional clinical trial. Eligible patients will have undergone limb amputation, with histopathologic confirmation of osteosarcoma. Carboplatin will be initiated within 14 days of surgery and given every 3 weeks for 4 treatments followed by randomization to either Palladia/Piroxicam/Cytoxan or Piroxicam/Cytoxan.
- **Transitional Cell Carcinoma:** Partially funded study aims to determine whether different NSAIDs have the same efficacy against transitional cell carcinoma. Traditionally piroxicam has been used; however, recent trials have shown other NSAIDs are also effective. Goals of trial are to determine if piroxicam, a non-selective NSAID, and firocoxib, a highly selective NSAID, have equal efficacy in a controlled setting, and also to help establish the mechanisms through which NSAIDs work in cancer therapy. Dogs with bladder masses are currently being recruited for study inclusion. Dogs will receive piroxicam or firocoxib in combination with mitoxantrone chemotherapy, consistent with current standards of care.
- **Obstructive Transitional Cell Carcinoma:** Study designed to alleviate urinary obstruction by utilizing palliative radiation therapy (five consecutive daily doses of radiation Mon - Fri), a urinary catheter, chemotherapy and piroxicam. Initial results have showed a 100 percent success rate at unblocking urinary obstruction in dogs with urinary transitional cell carcinoma.
- **OSA in Greyhounds:** In conjunction with the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program at The Ohio State University, aims to determine if there is a genetic correlation among retired racing greyhounds that develop OSA. Five doses of chemotherapy agent provided free of charge to qualified greyhounds in exchange for a small blood sample.
- **Brain Tumors:** Designed to deliver two treatments of hypo-fractionated radiation therapy to dogs and cats with brain tumors in a modified radiosurgical Linear Accelerator based approach. Animals are set up in a Z-plate positioning device during initial planning CT scan and a 3D computerized radiation arc beam therapy treatment plan is generated. Animals then receive two fractions of radiation given two days apart. Goal of the study is to evaluate effects of a modified radiosurgical and potentially palliative approach for brain tumor patients who are not candidates for standard definitive radiation therapy.
- **Canine Nasal Carcinoma:** Partially funded, multi-institutional clinical study offered via affiliation with the Veterinary Radiation Therapy Oncology Group. Objective is to identify the activity of Toceranib (Palladia), a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, used alone or as a radiation sensitizing agent in treatment of canine nasal carcinomas. Recently, the presence of target receptors for toceranib have been identified in canine nasal carcinomas and this non-randomized clinical study will examine the drug's efficacy either alone or in combination with radiotherapy using a 4.2 Gy x 10 daily fractionation schedule.
- **Non-Cancer Related Radiation Therapy Study - Osteoarthritis:** This Veterinary Cancer Group LA and Advanced Critical Care LA partially funded prospective study is designed to investigate the palliative effects of external beam low dose radiation therapy for dogs with refractory osteoarthritis. Human trials have demonstrated long term pain relief and functional gain in 50-75% treated; animal models have shown significant reduction of inflammation and joint effusion in affected radiated joints. Dogs enrolled will receive three doses of radiation, lower than would be of concern for any side effects, on consecutive days and be followed for 1 year after completion. Initial and follow up orthopedic exams performed by a board certified surgeon. Candidates must have orthogonal radiographic views of the joint, CBC, chem profile, and USG. Concurrent NSAIDs or steroid usage do not disqualify enrollment.

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