

May 9, 2009
For immediate release

PET/CT Bone Imaging Trial Enrolls First Ten Patients

The Academy of Molecular Imaging (AMI) is pleased to announce that its randomized, multi-center trial investigating the use of ^{18}F -sodium fluoride PET/CT (^{18}F -NaF) to detect bony metastases has enrolled its first ten patients. This important study compares conventional planar $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP bone imaging with ^{18}F -NaF PET/CT in patients with breast, prostate and non-small cell lung cancers. The protocol was developed in conjunction with the FDA and CMS, and calls for data on more than five hundred patients. The University of California-Los Angeles Medical Center, the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Systems and Scottsdale Medical Imaging have all begun imaging patients.

“This exciting development is the culmination of many months’ work and an extraordinary level of collaboration,” reports Johannes Czernin, MD, the principal investigator for the study. “While AMI is the IND holder, this important research is a result of cooperative efforts between thirteen clinical sites, AMI and the molecular imaging industry. Siemens/PETNET Solutions furnished these initial ^{18}F -NaF doses and GE Healthcare and IBA Molecular will also provide doses in the future.”

Cancer patients undergo more than 2 million planar $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP scans each year to determine whether the cancer has spread to their bones. ^{18}F -NaF PET/CT bone scanning may have advantages over this conventional method because it is able to find smaller metastases and differentiate more accurately between cancerous and non-cancerous conditions.

“Cancer patients may receive better and more timely treatment if we are able to improve our ability to detect the spread of their disease earlier and more accurately,” says Ed Coleman, MD, of Duke University Medical Center, which along with St. Louis University Hospital expects to begin enrolling participants soon. “This clinical trial is an example of the PET imaging community’s commitment to improve treatment and patient outcomes using scientifically rigorous research methods and analyses.”

Eight other sites are expected to participate upon IRB approval: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Stanford University Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Washington University Medical Center, University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Zurich.

About AMI:

The Academy of Molecular Imaging is a progressive organization that builds the school of thought, scientific paradigms and clinical practices of Molecular Imaging to advance the growing field of Molecular Medicine. The Academy and its journal are involved in the various technologies of molecular imaging and multimodalities formed by merging together imaging of biological processes with imaging anatomical structures within which these processes take place.

This includes such technologies as PET, optical imaging, MRI, SPECT, CT and ultrasound. AMI is the sponsor for the National Oncologic PET Registry (NOPR). To learn more about AMI or to become a member, please visit the Website at www.ami-imaging.org.

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