
Project Category: Neutron Therapy Facility

Funding Source(s): Funded by NCI in a DOE-owned facility

Institution(s): Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Principal Investigator(s): L. Cohen
F. R. Hendrickson

Objective(s) of Project: The scientific objective is to determine the effectiveness of neutron beam irradiation as compared to standard photon irradiation for the management of certain malignant tumors.

Short Description: Patients are identified as being eligible for inclusion in the clinical trials based on the type, extent and location of their cancer. Suitable candidates have tumors that are thought to be resistant to standard therapies. Informed consent is obtained. These clinical trials are conducted under the auspices of the Institutional Review Board. National cooperative trials are carried out in coordination with the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (funded by the National Cancer Institute). Some patients are treated with neutron beam irradiation only. Others receive a combination of neutron beam irradiation and one or more standard modalities such as photon irradiation, surgery and chemotherapy. The program began in July 1975 and is continuing.

Follow-up Data: Approximately 1400 patients have been referred to this facility. Prior to treatment, patients must agree to comply with long term follow-up requirements. Physical examinations, laboratory tests and radiographic investigations are conducted regularly. If a patient does not keep his scheduled appointments, every effort is made to contact him. Fewer than 1% of the patients treated at this facility are considered currently lost to follow-up.

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