



For Immediate Release  
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### **Pinpointing Prostate Tumor Location Key to Reducing Side Effects**

Camden, N.J.—In a new clinical trial at Cooper University Hospital, researchers are using combined imaging methods to identify the precise location of the tumor within the prostate gland leading to seed implantation with fewer side effects. Cooper is the only hospital in the country developing this method.

ProstaScint® imaging takes advantage of the fact that prostate cancer cells typically have higher concentration of a protein called prostate specific membrane antigen. During a ProstaScint scan, a radioactive antibody selectively attaches to these PSMA areas to allow them to be imaged and localized within the prostate gland. By defining the exact location of the prostate cancer cells in the prostate gland, select delivery of radioactive seeds to only part of the gland during brachytherapy can be performed.

"We believe combined ProstaScint and magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging will not allow any tumor to escape from our detection, yet significantly reduce treatment related side effects by 30 percent to 50 percent," said Steven J. DiBiase, M.D., principal investigator of the study and Chief of Radiation Oncology at Cooper.

In conventional prostate brachytherapy, radioactive seeds are placed within the entire prostate to eradicate all cancer cells. This procedure produces tumor control rates and survival comparable to surgery and external beam radiation. Side effects from this treatment, however, can be urinary frequency and urgency, rectal injury, and erectile dysfunction.

The new study would work to reduce these side effects by only treating a small part of the prostate gland and require less radioactive seeds.

A \$20,000 grant was awarded to Yunping Zhu, Ph.D., Director of Radiation Physics at Cooper, and other Cooper researchers to conduct this Phase II clinical trial by Cytogen, a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to advancing the care of cancer patients.

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## ADD 1 – New Clinical Trial at Cooper

“These types of grants pave the way for further research funding now being reviewed by the National Institutes of Health,” said Dr. DiBiase. “This work is clearly pioneering as Cooper is the only center in the country to offer this innovative treatment approach to our patients with prostate cancer. It reinforces the work in developing new protocols in cancer care.”

Cooper will begin enrolling patients in the study within the next few months. Call 1-800-8-COOPER for more information.

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