Supervisor/Project Information Form

Due February 24, 2021 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

Supervisor Name: Srinivas Raman

Project Title: Patterns of recurrence after tri-modality treatment for muscle invasive bladder

Hospital/Research Institution: Princess Margaret Cancer Center

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Field of Research (2 keywords): Bladder cancer, radiotherapy

Department: Radiation oncology

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: No

If YES, please name:
Brief Project Description (<300 words):

Bladder cancer is the fifth most common cancer in Canada with ~12,000 patients diagnosed annually. 25% of patients are diagnosed with muscle-invasive bladder cancer, which requires aggressive treatment and is associated with a five year survival of ~50%. Definitive local treatment options for muscle invasive bladder includes both a radical cystectomy and a tri-modality treatment (TMT) approach involving debulking transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT), chemotherapy for radiation sensitization, and external beam radiotherapy. Previous analyses from our institution show that in appropriately selected patients, TMT is associated with similar oncological outcomes compared to patients who have undergone radical cystectomy (1). However even with multi-modal therapy, up to 50% of patients will experience a recurrence after treatment either in the bladder, in the regional lymph nodes or distantly through hematogenous spread.

Despite the adoption of TMT at many North American institutions, there is a paucity of information about the patterns of recurrence in patients treated with contemporary TMT techniques. In this project, detailed patterns of recurrence after TMT for bladder cancer will be characterized. Understanding this information can inform practice and guide targeted interventions to further optimize outcomes in this patient population. The medical student will be involved with reviewing and updating an REB-approved project database of muscle invasive bladder cancer patients who have undergone TMT. He/she will review medical notes and radiology reports to document and classify where the bladder cancer recurred after treatment. He/she will work with a statistician to summarize the findings, and participate in writing of a manuscript suitable for peer-reviewed publication. There will also be opportunities for the student to present the results of the study in at least one medical conference.