

BrachyBytes



Less Toxicity. More Patients.
Now *That's* SAVI.



Milestone Data Published Validating APBI Equivalence to WBI

Clinicians have long awaited Level 1 clinical evidence to support the use of accelerated treatment with brachytherapy, an approach that is kinder to the patient, less time consuming and targets only the tissue at risk. In a recent interview with Oncology Central, Frank Vicini, MD, Chief Academic Officer for Michigan Healthcare Professionals and 21st Century Oncology and Professor of Radiation Oncology, discusses data from a landmark study that indicate APBI brachytherapy leads to equivalent overall survival rates, and equivalent local and regional cancer control rates, as compared with WBI after breast conserving surgery for selected patients with early stage breast cancers.



Frank Vicini, MD

To read the entire transcript from Oncology Central, visit: <http://www.oncology-central.com/2016/01/13/new-directions-in-breast-conserving-surgery-an-interview-with-pat-whitworth-md-and-frank-vicini-md>.

The GEC–ESTRO accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) trial is the largest prospective, randomized Phase III multicenter trial to directly evaluate the role of multicatheter interstitial brachytherapy alone, compared with whole breast irradiation (WBI), in a defined low-risk group of invasive breast cancer or ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).

Results demonstrated that APBI brachytherapy leads to equivalent overall survival rates, and equivalent local and regional cancer control rates, as compared with WBI after breast conserving surgery for selected patients with early stage breast cancers.

The published results with intraoperative single-fraction radiotherapy either with electrons (ELIOT-trial) or with soft X-rays (TARGIT trial) proved the inferiority of single fraction IORT compared to WBI.



Rochelle Colon
Retired English Teacher and
Breast Cancer Survivor

First-Hand Comparison of Breast Cancer Treatment: 2000 vs. 2015

An interview with Rochelle Colon, Breast Cancer Survivor

Rochelle was cancer-free for 15 years after her first bout of breast cancer in 2000. In 2015, a zero-stage noninvasive cancer was discovered in her right breast during a routine yearly mammogram. Her biopsy report from May 2015 indicated, "Multiple cores of breast parenchyma showing extensive intermediate to high-grade ductal carcinoma, in SITU (DCIS).

How did you feel when you were told you had breast cancer last year?

I said, 'Oh, here we go again.' I wasn't really afraid; it was more like, I was fed up. Definitely not

the same kind of fear I had in 2000, because I had been through it. It was the same fight. I wasn't worried about dying. I just wanted to get it taken care of right away. Honestly my biggest fear had to do with all the side effects the lymphedema, the radiation burns.

What treatment options were you offered this time? What did you opt for and why?

I contacted Dr. Anglin [breast surgeon Beth Anglin, M.D., FACS]. She knew me from the first time and she had my whole history.

Doctors don't really want to make that decision for you. The first time I had cancer, it was really hard I was feeling kind of lost. My oncologist [Medical Oncologist Michael A. Savin, M.D.] helped me make the decision the first time. The second time I had a better idea of what I was facing. Dr. Anglin and I talked and lumpectomy was the way to go.

I understand Dr. Anglin used the SAVI SCOUT breast localization and surgical guidance system. Tell us about your surgical experience last year as compared to the treatment you received 15 years ago.

Fifteen years ago, they knew exactly where the tumor was there was no guessing game for that. This time around, the tumor was much smaller, and so it was not easy to find.

I'm a big fan of SAVI SCOUT! That little chip is a miracle! With SAVI SCOUT, Dr. Anglin was able to pinpoint the tumor immediately. There was no need for a second surgery, so there was no risk of lymphedema.

Dr. Anglin also discussed the SAVI brachytherapy option with you. Tell us about that experience as compared to the treatment you received 15 years ago.

Honestly my bigger fears this time around had to do with all the side effects. I'm so grateful I was able to receive the SAVI radiation treatment. It made it 100% easier for me. I didn't have such a long recovery period, it wasn't painful, and there was no lymphedema. I would definitely choose the SAVI treatment again rather than the standard six-seven week radiation procedure if I ever have to face breast cancer again.

Anything else you'd like to say?

Maybe because these two therapies make everything so much easier, the doctors have more time to spend with you as a person. I think they've adopted a more holistic point of view. Yes you've got cancer, but you're a person. And I can tell you from personal experience, if you feel like you're being treated well, like your questions are being answered, you're going to heal a lot faster.



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