

Children's Oncology Group

Exhibit A

June 11, 2010

Simon P Horslen MB, ChB
Pediatric Hepatologist
Seattle Children's Hospital
Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology
Mailstop W7830
4800 Sand Point Way, Northeast
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Dr. Horslen,

We are writing to inform you that as a protocol requirement for children entered into the Children's Oncology Group Study AHEP 0731, children with hepatoblastoma who may require liver transplantation are referred to a transplant center for an initial evaluation after two courses of protocol determined chemotherapy. These children would not be transplanted under protocol until they receive at least 2 courses of chemotherapy, and no more than 4 cycles of chemotherapy. They must have no evidence of metastatic disease at the time of transplant. Pulmonary metastasis persistent after four courses of chemotherapy may be surgically removed rendering the child free of metastatic disease and candidates for listing. The transplant evaluation may occur at anytime between diagnosis and the time immediately following the second cycle of chemotherapy. The protocol mandates a transplant evaluation be completed in eligible patients before the start of the third cycle of chemotherapy facilitate preparations for transplantation and to ensure that transplant occurs no later than after 4 cycles of preoperative chemotherapy. A few of these children may become resectable after subsequent courses of chemotherapy. The intention is to provide liver transplantation to those children who cannot be completely resected by conventional means.

Currently United Network for Organ Sharing rules allow children with hepatoblastoma to be listed for liver transplantation at 30 points if they are not resectable by conventional means and have no evidence of metastatic disease. If they are not transplanted after 30 days they may be made a 1b. Members of the central protocol surgery review team are available for consultation by phone if you have need. The complete protocol is available electronically at www.childrensoncologygroup.org but is password protected. A copy of the AHEP0731 hepatoblastoma protocol can be sent to you directly upon request from the surgical committee chair (rebecka.meyers@hsc.utah.edu). We have included the surgical guidelines portion of the protocol with this letter and email.

Group Chair
Gregory Reaman, M.D.

Group Vice Chair
Frank Smith, M.D.

Administrative Officer
Maura O'Leary, M.D.

Group Statistician
James Anderson, Ph.D.

Associate Group Statistician
Mark Krailo, Ph.D.

Group Chair's Office
4600 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814-3457
Phone: (240) 235-2220
Fax: (301) 718-0047
greaman@childrensoncologygroup.org

Albert Roy
Director of Finance and Planning

Group Operations Center
440 E. Huntington Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: (626) 447-0064
Fax: (626) 445-4334

**Statistics & Data Center
Headquarters**
440 E. Huntington Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: (626) 447-0064
Fax: (626) 445-4334

Gainesville Office
104 N. Main Street
Suite 600
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: (352) 273-0550
Fax: (352) 392-8162

Omaha Office
University of Nebraska Medical Center
984375 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-4375
Phone: (402) 559-4112
Fax: (402) 559-7259

A National Cancer Institute supported
clinical cooperative group

Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action
Institutions