



A study at the heart of breast cancer treatment



Study News

Celebrating Your Commitment to RadComp



RadComp is on the brink of completing its enrollment goal, with less than **50 participants** remaining to enroll. The study, however, does not end when enrollment ends. RadComp has several specific aims that it seeks to reach over the next few years.

[Read More](#)
[Email Carolyn Hencsek](#)

Protocol Changes Reduce Participant Time Commitment



Recent changes to the RadComp Protocol will reduce participant time commitment for those in the Long-term Follow-up stage, specifically affecting the Health Related Quality of Life surveys.

[Read More](#)
[Email Amanda Driscoll](#)

Are Your Quality of Life Questionnaires Up to Date?

Please complete your RadComp quality-of-life questionnaires. [Click to learn more about RadComp questionnaires: \(in English\), \(in Spanish\)](#)



[Complete Questionnaire](#)

(*After logging in, if you do not see a questionnaire to complete then you do not have one due at this time. Thank you!).

January Survey Question

What platform do you most often use for information videos?

YouTube

Instagram

TikTok

Survey Results from October Issue:

In the last issue, we asked:

Would you like to receive text communications about upcoming RadComp appointments?

Results:

37 Study participants responded.

30 said **Yes** to text reminders

7 said **No** to text reminders

January survey answers will appear in the April 2024 Newsletter.

Advocacy Partner Events & Resources



LBBC 's Thriving Together: 2024 Conference on Metastatic Breast Cancer

Date: Fri, Apr 19 to Sun, Apr 21, 2024 ET

Location: Virtual and In-Person
Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing,
201 S Christopher Columbus Blvd,
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Registration will open in February, 2024.

[Click here to learn more](#)

LatinaShare Support Community
Voces Unidas Crean Cambio

Date: March 21, 2024 at 9 AM
Registration begins at 8 AM

Location:
4 West 43rd Street,
New York, NY 10036.

Publication of Interest

Congratulations to

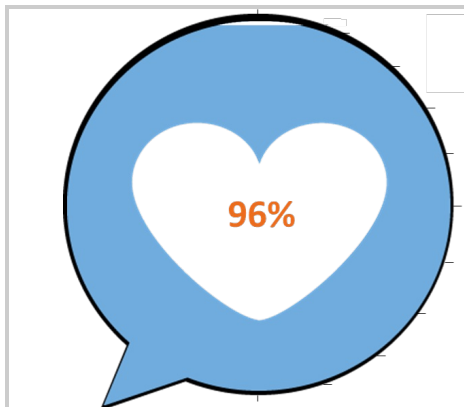


Drs. Lior Braunstein and Atif Khan of Memorial Sloan Kettering on their recent publication

Optimization of Breast Cancer Regional Nodal Management

Journal of Clinical Oncology
Volume 42, Number 2
<https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.23.02121>

Study Participant Enrollment



As of December 31st, RadComp has enrolled **1,224** participants to the Study, **14** in the last quarter.

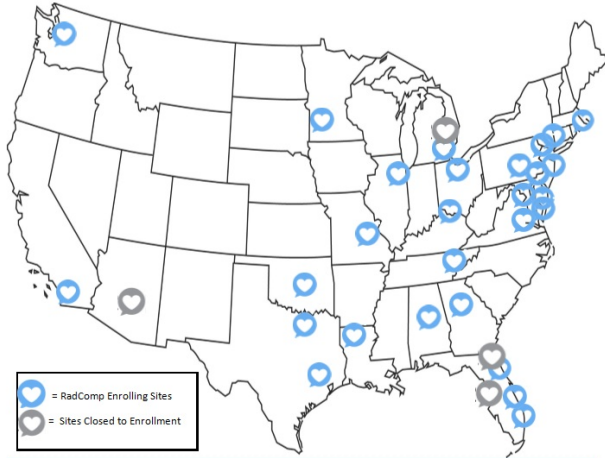
We are **96%** enrolled. There are **54** participants needed to complete target population!

Last Quarter Enrolling Physicians

More About RadComp

Visit our
website

Study
Locations



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Celebrating Your Commitment to RadComp’s Long-term Follow-up Stage.

RadComp is on the brink of completing enrollment, with less than **50 participants** remaining to enroll. The study, however, does not end when enrollment ends. RadComp has several specific aims to reach over the next few years. These include determining whether differences exist between photon and proton radiation therapies in:

1. Cardiovascular risk
2. Cancer recurrence
3. Participant reported quality of life (RadComp Study, 2016).

The RadComp Study has always been “Patient Powered,” and the study’s success relies on our participant population’s continuing involvement. The RadComp Coordinating Center and study teams are so thankful to each study participant, and we ask that you continue your participation throughout the long-term follow-up portion of the study. We know that long-term follow-up can be challenging, as individuals and families change and migrate. (Norrie, 2023)

What is Long-term Follow-up in Clinical Trials?

The National Cancer Institute defines the follow-up stage as “monitoring a person’s health over a time after Treatment,” which can include “keeping track of the health of people who participate in a clinical study or clinical trial for a period of time, both during the study and after the study ends.” Long-term follow-up can be as short as a few months or may go on for decades. In RadComp’s case, long-term follow-up will continue for five to seven years after the last RadComp participant is enrolled, potentially until 2033.

RadComp’s long-term follow-up begins after participants complete their 6-month post radiation treatment visit. RadComp continues to collect study participants’ health information until the study ends.

Why is Long-term Follow-up Data Important?

The data collected in the long-term follow-up stage is the **golden fleece of information**. It holds the answers to the research questions asked in the conception stages of the study. Each participant who remains engaged in the study brings RadComp a step closer to discovering the answers to its questions. These answers have the potential to impact the future of breast cancer treatment, both in terms of the specific research questions asked, and potentially, in unexpected ways too.

Examining the long-term effects of treatment allows physicians the ability to:

- Ensure the safety and effectiveness of a particular intervention or treatment.
- Anticipate the types of side effects and health concerns future patients may encounter.
- Track and record the benefits and limitations of existing treatments.
- Imagine improvements in future treatments.

Your active and continued participation makes a lasting contribution to the future of breast cancer care and delivery.

What you can do to help ensure the RadComp Study presents the best possible results?

1. Keep your contact information up to date. Let us know if you have a change of address, phone number, or email address.
2. Stay in touch through the RadComp Newsletter
3. Contact us if you have any questions, at

Email: RadComp@penncancer.org or

Phone: 215-662-6694

Our study team is happy to answer your questions.

References:

Long term follow up (LTFU) in clinical research: What you need to know. (2023, February 23). Retrieved from Curebase: <https://www.curebase.com/blog/long-term-follow-up-ltfu-in-clinical-research-what-you-need-to-know#:~:text=al.%2C%20found%20some%20benefits%20of,of%20the%20relative%20benefits%20and>

Norrie, J. (2023, July 1). *The importance of long-term follow-up in clinical trials.* Retrieved from The Lancet: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(23\)00244-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(23)00244-9)

RadComp Study. (2016, October 16). *The RadComp Trial: A Study at the Heart of Breast Cancer Treatment.* Retrieved from YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skqPHTPslvo&t=15s>

Photo:

https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/group-women-taking-selfie_7089935.htm#query=community%20women&position=14&from_view=keyword&track=ais&uuid=e6222535-e8ad-4c03-be49-3b2e0433a2ad

RadComp Protocol Changes Reduce Participant Time Commitment in Long-Term Follow-Up



The RadComp study progresses because of the commitment of our participants. We are so appreciative of the time and effort our participants put toward the study. To that end, the RadComp Coordinating Center recently updated our study protocol to streamline some study activities. One of the main goals of the RadComp study is to evaluate how health-related quality of life (HRQOL) may be different between participants who received proton therapy versus photon therapy.

Previously, the study teams collected HRQOL questionnaires throughout the duration of the study. RadComp's Protocol Amendment, broadcast to our study teams on December 14, 2023, ends the annual HRQOL collection period beginning at the 12-month timepoint. We will continue to collect HRQOL questionnaires from participants who are receiving radiation therapy or who have recently completed their radiation therapy, but participants who are in long-term follow-up will no longer need to complete the HRQOL questionnaires. Long-term follow-up means you have completed your treatment plus your one-month and six-month post treatment follow-up appointments. After that period, you are helping us understand how your radiation therapy may affect your health over a long period of time, typically between five and ten years.

If you had your radiation therapy longer than nine months ago, you may notice that at your next study visit you will not be asked to complete your usual HRQOL questionnaires. This should reduce the time of your study visit from 30-45 minutes to 10-15 minutes. We will continue to ask you about how well your cancer is being controlled, any medication you are taking for your cancer, and if you've had any new heart problems since we've last spoken to you.

As we continue to reach study milestones, we hope to continue making study follow-up faster and easier for participants to complete their study activities. The RadComp study depends on the efforts of our participants. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to help inform the care of future breast cancer patients.

[Email Amanda Driscoll](#)

Photo by Andi Breit

<https://pixabay.com/photos/opinion-poll-opinion-polling-survey-1594962/>