



Commission  
on Cancer

# Flash



A Monthly News Update from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons

**December 3, 2007**

## Special Announcement

### CoC and AJCC Special Study on Staging Underway

**To: Cancer Registrars in Select Cancer Programs Accredited by the CoC**

**cc: Cancer Liaison Physicians and Cancer Committee Chairs**

The Commission on Cancer (CoC), in collaboration with the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), is pleased to announce the launch of a special study entitled, "**Impact of Neoadjuvant Therapy on Staging of Breast and Rectal Cancer Cases.**" This study will focus on: 1) the collection of staging information prior to the administration of neoadjuvant therapy and, 2) the extent of disease following the completion of neoadjuvant therapy and surgery to assess the degree of tumor response.

### Study Period

The study will open on **December 3, 2007**, and will close on **January 31, 2008**.

### Participation

- Your CoC-accredited cancer program is **required** to participate in this study since case reports submitted by your facility to the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) meet the study criteria.
- Participation in this study will fulfill your facility's requirements for Standard 3.8 related to participation in CoC special studies.
- The study includes only breast and rectal cancer cases diagnosed in 2005 and 2004 that were reported to the NCDB as having undergone neoadjuvant systemic or radiation therapy. **No more than 10 cases are required to be completed by a facility.**

Note: The Survey Application Record (SAR) will be updated to show your facility's participation and completion of this study.

### Access Information

1) This is an Internet-based study that can only be accessed through CoC Datalinks, the CoC's password-protected portal located at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/index.html>.

2) Use the CoC Datalinks user ID and password previously assigned to you to enter and complete

the study. If you need assistance with your user ID and password, please contact the CoC at [CoCDatalinks@facs.org](mailto:CoCDatalinks@facs.org).

3) The link to the study can be found on the CoC Datalinks Activity Menu, under the heading "National Cancer Data Base Statistics"

#### *Access Diagram*

<http://www.facs.org/cancer/index.html> » CoC Datalinks Activity Menu » National Cancer Data Base Statistics » Link to: **Impact of Neoadjuvant Therapy on Staging of Breast and Rectal Cancer Cases**

#### **Study Instructions**

The Neoadjuvant Study page contains two documents that provide additional information on the study—the Study Design and Overview and the Study Navigation and Staging Guide. *Please read these documents prior to starting the study.* The latter document provides detailed navigation information with screen shots to facilitate your work within the Web application. It also offers clear definitions and examples for the two types of staging sought by this study.

Note: These documents can also be found on the CoC Special Studies Web page at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/specialstudies.html>.

Questions regarding this study should be directed to the AJCC at [AJCC@facs.org](mailto:AJCC@facs.org).

Thank you in advance for your participation.



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