



“Jedi” Gino Altieri Foundation Funding Supports Children’s Oncology Group Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma Research

WHAT IS RHABDOMYOSARCOMA?

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common soft tissue cancer in children. It accounts for approximately 4% of all cases of childhood cancer and nearly 50% of all childhood soft tissue sarcomas.

WHAT IS THE CHILDREN’S ONCOLOGY GROUP?

- The Children’s Oncology Group (COG) consists of more than 8,000 experts worldwide who are collectively dedicated to improving outcomes for all children with cancer.
- COG partners with research scientists at nearly 200 member sites throughout the U.S. in their efforts to understand the causes of cancer and find more effective treatments.
- 90% of U.S. children diagnosed with cancer are cared for at a COG member site.

WHAT IS RISK STRATIFICATION?

Risk stratification is the process of classifying cancer patients based on individual risks for poor outcome, so that treatment can be matched to individual risk. More intensive treatment is given to high-risk patients, while less toxic treatment is given to low-risk patients. Because of advances in risk stratification prior to treatment, outcomes for patients with many types of pediatric cancer have improved greatly.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS RESEARCH?

Recent studies demonstrated that gene expression profiles can predict the risk of poor outcomes for many types of cancers. Members of COG will evaluate gene expression profiles to determine which genes best predict RMS outcomes on an individual patient basis. Funding from the “Jedi” Gino Foundation will allow COG to extend this work to include the alveolar type of RMS. The results of this research may become the model for risk-specific therapy modification for individual RMS patients in future clinical trials.

