



Study Title:	Investigating the Effects of Chemotherapy on the Brain in Breast Cancer Patients
Scientific Title:	A Pilot Study Investigating the Effects of Chemotherapy on Brain Function in Breast Cancer Patients: Chemobrain Study
Department and/or Specialty:	Oncology; Breast; Supportive Care
Investigator:	Hendrikus Krouwer, MD
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Purpose:

A growing awareness exists among both patients and their physicians about the possible impact of cancer treatments on cognitive function. Many reports have shown evidence indicating changes in cancer patients brain function following chemotherapy treatment. Advanced neuro-imaging techniques such as fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and DTI (diffusion tensor imaging) are increasingly being explored in a number of neurological disorders in an attempt to relate functional and structural information on the brain with early symptoms of these disorders. These techniques deserve further testing in order to hopefully assist in developing future models for preventing and treating these cognitive changes.

This in-house pilot study is designed to explore what affect chemotherapy has on the daily function and quality of life in women with invasive breast cancer or ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast. We are intending to gather preliminary information to support a proposal for a large, multi-center study to more fully explore the effects of chemotherapy induced brain function in a larger sample of patients with various forms of cancer.



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