



CENTER FOR SARCOMA AND BONE ONCOLOGY

ANGIOSARCOMAS

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

An effective method of cancer treatment called angiogenesis inhibition hinges on preventing the growth of new blood vessels that provide tumors with nutrients and help cancer cells spread through the bloodstream. Recently, [George Demetri, MD](#), director of the [Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology](#), and collaborating investigators at other leading sarcoma centers worldwide completed a definitive phase III clinical trial of a new angiogenesis inhibitor by testing the drug pazopanib in the treatment of soft-tissue sarcomas that no longer benefit from chemotherapy. Pazopanib originally received FDA approval as a treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma in 2009.

Dr. Demetri's trial showed that, compared to treatment with a placebo compound, pazopanib significantly increased the duration of disease control, also called progression-free survival, among patients receiving the drug. The trial consisted of 372 patients treated at 72 sites across 13 countries, including the United States, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and several countries in Europe. The findings from the trial were published in the journal *Lancet* in May 2012, and helped lead to FDA approval of pazopanib as a treatment for patients with angiosarcoma and other soft-tissue sarcomas who have already undergone chemotherapy. With this approval, pazopanib has become the first new drug approved in the United States for sarcomas other than GIST since the early 1980s, making it an important addition to treatment options for patients with soft-tissue sarcomas.