

### **Radiation After Lumpectomy May Benefit Many Older Breast Cancer Patients.**

The Washington Post (8/13, Huget) "The Checkup" blog reports, "Most older women with early-stage, estrogen-positive breast cancer may benefit from receiving radiation treatment after lumpectomy," according to a study published in Cancer. The research "largely contradicts current breast-cancer treatment guidelines, which call for estrogen-blocker drug treatment but not radiation after breast-conserving lumpectomy surgery." Investigators "looked at existing data from the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) registry for 7,403 women ages 70 to 79 who'd had lumpectomies to treat early-stage, estrogen-positive breast cancer."

The Houston Chronicle (8/13, Ackerman) reports, "Researchers at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center found that radiation following breast-conserving surgery significantly reduces the recurrence risk in a subset of women diagnosed in their 70s with early-stage, estrogen-positive tumors." Dr. Benjamin Smith, the study's principal investigator, "said the study...should be practice-changing for some doctors. Many doctors already don't follow the national guidelines, he said."

MedPage Today (8/13, Bankhead) points out that "one subgroup of patients did not benefit from radiation therapy: Women, ages 75 to 79, who had pathologic lymph node assessment and no evidence of high-grade tumor." Aunt Minnie (8/13, Keen) also covers the story.