Stanford



Harlan Pinto

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Medicine - Oncology

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Medical Oncology**

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Bio

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Cancer > Head and Neck Cancer
- Medical Oncology
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Oncology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor Emeritus, Medicine - Oncology
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Medical Oncology, American Board of Internal Medicine (2023)
- Medical Education: Yale School Of Medicine (1983) CT
- Fellowship: Stanford University School of Medicine (1991) CA
- Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency (1986) MA
- Internship: Massachusetts General Hospital (1984) MA
- Board Certification: Internal Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine (1986)

LINKS

- Get a Second Opinion: https://stanfordhealthcare.org/second-opinion/overview.html

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Clinical investigations focus on head and neck cancer with a particular interest in combined modality therapy. Through the Stanford University Head and Neck Tumor Board, clinical trials are conducted which involve all aspects of care for patients with head and neck cancer. The clinical research program includes translation of preclinical work performed in the Radiobiology Section at Stanford, new drug development, the development of novel combination therapy, chemoprevention, and the integration of biological response modifiers into combined modality treatment.

As a member of Stanford's Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group trials effort, Dr. Pinto is involved in the implementation and development of a variety of clinical trials at Stanford and the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

CLINICAL TRIALS

- Identification of Secreted Markers for Tumor Hypoxia in Patients With Head and Neck or Lung Cancers, Recruiting
- A Study of Atezolizumab Plus Cobimetinib and Vemurafenib Versus Placebo Plus Cobimetinib and Vemurafenib in Previously Untreated BRAFv600 Mutation-Positive Patients With Metastatic or Unresectable Locally Advanced Melanoma, Not Recruiting
- A Study of Bevacizumab With Carboplatin and Paclitaxel Chemotherapy for the First-Line Treatment of Patients With Metastatic Melanoma, Not Recruiting
- Bicalutamide With or Without Akt Inhibitor MK2206 in Treating Patients With Previously Treated Prostate Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Carboplatin and Paclitaxel With or Without Sorafenib Tosylate in Treating Patients With Stage III or Stage IV Melanoma That Cannot Be Removed by Surgery, Not Recruiting
- Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy in Treating Patients With Stage III or Stage IV Larynx or Oropharynx Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Chemotherapy With or Without Bevacizumab in Treating Patients With Recurrent or Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Not Recruiting
- Compassionate Use Trial for Unresectable Melanoma With Ipilimumab, Not Recruiting
- Dasatinib in Treating Patients With Locally Advanced or Metastatic Mucosal Melanoma, Acral Melanoma, or Vulvovaginal Melanoma That Cannot Be Removed By Surgery, Not Recruiting
- Doxorubicin Hydrochloride, Cyclophosphamide, and Pacltaxel With or Without Trastuzumab in Treating Women With HER2-Positive Node-Positive or High-Risk Node-Negative Breast Cancer, Not Recruiting
- High-Dose Interferon Alfa in Treating Patients With Stage II or Stage III Melanoma, Not Recruiting
- Ipilimumab or High-Dose Interferon Alfa-2b in Treating Patients With High-Risk Stage III-IV Melanoma That Has Been Removed by Surgery, Not Recruiting
- Ipilimumab With or Without Sargramostim in Treating Patients With Stage III or Stage IV Melanoma That Cannot Be Removed by Surgery, Not Recruiting
- Oxaliplatin, Leucovorin, and Fluorouracil With or Without Bevacizumab in Treating Patients Who Have Undergone Surgery for Stage II Colon Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Phase III Trial Of Docetaxel Versus Docetaxel Plus ZD1839 In Head And Neck Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Selenium in Preventing Tumor Growth in Patients With Previously Resected Stage I Non-small Cell Lung Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Sorafenib in Treating Patients With Refractory Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Not Recruiting
- Sunitinib Malate or Sorafenib Tosylate in Treating Patients With Kidney Cancer That Was Removed By Surgery, Not Recruiting
- Vaccine Therapy Using Melanoma Peptides for Cytotoxic T Cells and Helper T Cells in Treating Patients With Metastatic Melanoma, Not Recruiting

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **MDM2 inhibition is associated with the emergence of TP53-altered clonal hematopoiesis.** *NPJ precision oncology*
  Khanna, V., Eslami, G., Reyes, R., Diep, R., Fernandez-Pol, S., Stehr, H., Suarez, C. J., Pinto, H., Ford, J. M., Zhang, T. Y., Chen, C. T.

2025; 9 (1): 34

- **NCCN Guidelines Insights: Head and Neck Cancers, Version 2.2025.** *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network : JNCCN*
  Colevas, A. D., Cmelak, A. J., Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Adkins, D., Birkeland, A. C., Brizel, D. M., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Durm, G., Fakhry, C., Galloway, T., Geiger, et al
  2025; 23 (2): 2-11

- **In search for optimal induction chemotherapy for advanced nasopharyngeal cancer: Standard dosing of Docetaxel, Platinum, and 5-Fluorouracil (TPF) followed by chemoradiation.** *PloS one*
  Jun, M., Pinto, H., Le, Q. T., Quon, A., Hara, W., Coty, J., McMillan, A., Lu, R., Winters, E., Lira, R., Colevas, A. D.
  2023; 18 (2): e0276651

- **Phase III Prospectively Randomized Trial of Perioperative 5-FU After Curative Resection for Colon Cancer: An Intergroup Trial of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (E1292).** *Annals of surgical oncology*
  Kemeny, M. M., Zhao, F., Forastiere, A. A., Catalano, P., Hamilton, S. R., Miedema, B. W., Dawson, N. A., Weiner, L. M., Smith, B. D., Mason, B. A., Graziano, S. L., Gilman, P. B., Venook, et al
  2022

- **NCCN Guidelines Insights: Head and Neck Cancers, Version 1.2022.** *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network : JNCCN*
  Caudell, J. J., Gillison, M. L., Maghami, E., Spencer, S., Pfister, D. G., Adkins, D., Birkeland, A. C., Brizel, D. M., Busse, P. M., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A. D., Eisele, D. W., Galloway, et al
  2022; 20 (3): 224-234

- **Recurrent bilateral cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma arising within pretibial hypertrophic lichen planus with metastasis while on cemiplimab** *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology Case Reports*
  Leeolou, M., Burgren, N., Lee, C., Momeni, A., Pinto, H., Johannet, P., Nord, K., Chang, A. S.
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- **Head and Neck Cancers, Version 2.2020** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Adelstein, D., Adkins, D., Anzai, Y., Brizel, D. M., Bruce, J. Y., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A., Eisele, D. W., Fenton, et al
  2020; 18 (7): 873–98

- **Phase III Randomized Trial of Chemotherapy With or Without Bevacizumab in Patients With Recurrent or Metastatic Head and Neck Cancer.** *Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*
  Argiris, A. n., Li, S. n., Savvides, P. n., Ohr, J. P., Gilbert, J. n., Levine, M. A., Chakravarti, A. n., Haigentz, M. n., Saba, N. F., Ikpeazu, C. V., Schneider, C. J., Pinto, H. A., Forastiere, et al
  2019: JCO1900555

- **Weekly Docetaxel, Cisplatin, and Cetuximab in Palliative Treatment of Patients with Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck** *ONCOLOGIST*
  Trieu, V., Pinto, H., Riess, J. W., Lira, R., Luciano, R., Coty, J., Boothroyd, D., Colevas, A.
  2018; 23 (7): 764-+

- **NCCN Guidelines (R) Insights Head and Neck Cancers, Version 1.2018 Featured Updates to the NCCN Guidelines** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Colevas, A., Yom, S. S., Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Adelstein, D., Adkins, D., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Eisele, D. W., Fenton, et al
  2018; 16 (5): 479–90

- **Double-Blind, Randomized Phase 3 Trial of Low-Dose 13-Cis Retinoic Acid in the Prevention of Second Primaries in Head and Neck Cancer: Long-Term Follow-Up of a Trial of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (C0590)** *CANCER*
  Bhatia, A. K., Lee, J., Pinto, H. A., Jacobs, C. D., Limburg, P. J., Rubin, P., Arusell, R. M., Dunphy, E. P., Khandekar, J. D., Reiner, S. A., Baez-Diaz, L., Celano, P., Li, et al
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- **NCCN Guidelines (R) Insights Head and Neck Cancers, Version 2.2017** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Adelstein, D., Gillison, M. L., Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Adkins, D., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A., Eisele, D. W., Fenton, et al
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- **Phase III randomized trial of chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab (B) in patients (pts) with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (R/M SCCHN): Survival analysis of E1305, an ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group trial.**
  Argiris, A., Li, S., Savvides, P., Ohr, J., Gilbert, J., Levine, M. A., Haigentz, M., Saba, N. F., Chakravarti, A., Ikpeazu, C., Schneider, C., Pinto, H., Forastiere, et al
  AMER SOC CLINICAL ONCOLOGY.2017

- **Double blind phase III trial of effects of low dose 13-cisretinoic acid on prevention of second primaries in stages I-II head and neck cancer: A trial of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (C0590).**
  Bhatia, A. K., Leek, J., Pinto, H., Jacobs, C. D., Limburg, P. J., Arusell, R., Dunphy, E., Khandekar, J. D., Reiner, S., Baez-Diaz, L., Celano, P., Li, S., Li, et al
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- **Head and Neck Cancers, Version 1.2015.** *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*
  Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A. D., Dunphy, F., Eisele, D. W., Foote, R. L., Gilbert, J., Gillison, et al
  2015; 13 (7): 847-856

- **Head and Neck Cancers, Version 1.2015 Featured Updates to the NCCN Guidelines** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A. D., Dunphy, F., Eisele, D. W., Foote, R. L., Gilbert, J., Gillison, et al
  2015; 13 (7): 847-856

- **Concurrent cetuximab versus platinum-based chemoradiation for the definitive treatment of locoregionally advanced head and neck cancer.** *Head & neck*
  Tang, C., Chan, C., Jiang, W., Murphy, J. D., von Eyben, R., Colevas, A. D., Pinto, H., Lee-Enriquez, N., Kong, C., Le, Q.
  2015; 37 (3): 386-392

- **Head and Neck Cancers, Version 2.2014** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Pfister, D. G., Spencer, S., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A. D., Dunphy, F., Eisele, D. W., Gilbert, J., Gillison, M. L., Haddad, et al
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- **Head and Neck Cancers, Version 2.2013 Featured Updates to the NCCN Guidelines** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK*
  Pfister, D. G., Ang, K., Brizel, D. M., Burtness, B. A., Busse, P. M., Caudell, J. J., Cmelak, A. J., Colevas, A. D., Dunphy, F., Eisele, D. W., Gilbert, J., Gillison, M. L., Haddad, et al
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- **Impact of positron emission tomography/computed tomography surveillance at 12 and 24 months for detecting head and neck cancer recurrence.** *Cancer*
  Ho, A. S., Tsao, G. J., Chen, F. W., Shen, T., Kaplan, M. J., Colevas, A. D., Fischbein, N. J., Quon, A., Le, Q., Pinto, H. A., Fee, W. E., Sunwoo, J. B., Sirjani, et al
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- **Impact of positron emission tomography/computed tomography surveillance at 12 and 24 months for detecting head and neck cancer recurrence** *CANCER*
  Ho, A. S., Tsao, G. J., Chen, F. W., Shen, T., Kaplan, M. J., Colevas, A. D., Fischbein, N. J., Quon, A., Quynh-Thu Le, Q. T., Pinto, H. A., Fee, W. E., Sunwoo, J. B., Sirjani, et al
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- **Phase I evaluation of TNFerade biologic plus chemoradiotherapy before esophagectomy for locally advanced resectable esophageal cancer** *GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY*
  Chang, K. J., Reid, T., Senzer, N., Swisher, S., Pinto, H., Hanna, N., Chak, A., Soetikno, R.
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- **INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIOTHERAPY FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED CANCERS OF THE LARYNX AND HYPOPHARYNX** *HEAD AND NECK-JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENCES AND SPECIALTIES OF THE HEAD AND NECK*
  Daly, M. E., Le, Q., Jain, A. K., Maxim, P. G., Hsu, A., Loo, B. W., Kaplan, M. J., Fischbein, N. J., Colevas, A. D., Pinto, H., Chang, D. T.
  2011; 33 (1): 103-111

- **INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIOTHERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER: CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND PATTERNS OF FAILURE** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY BIOLOGY PHYSICS*
  Daly, M. E., Le, Q., Maxim, P. G., Loo, B. W., Kaplan, M. J., Fischbein, N. J., Pinto, H., Chang, D. T.
  2010; 76 (5): 1339-1346

- **Survival analysis of multi-center clinical trial using endoscopy (END) and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guided fine needle injection (FNI) of anti-tumor agent (TNFerade (TM) biologic) in patients with locally advanced esophageal cancer** *73rd Annual Meeting of the American-College-of-Gastroenterology*
  Chang, K., Senzer, N., Soetikno, R., Swisher, S., Reid, T., Mauer, A., Vokes, E., Pinto, H., Chak, A., Forastiere, A.
  NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP.2008: S27–S28

- **In vivo H-1 magnetic resonance spectroscopy of lactate in patients with Stage IV head and neck squamous cell carcinoma** *49th Annual Meeting of the American-Society-for-Therapeutic-Radiology-and-Oncology (ASTRO)*
  Le, Q., Koong, A., Lieskovsky, Y. Y., Narasimhan, B., Graves, E., Pinto, H., Brown, J. M., Spielman, D.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2008: 1151–57

- **Excellent local control with stereotactic radiotherapy boost after external beam radiotherapy in patients with nasopharyngeal carcinoma** *87th Annual Meeting of the American-Radium-Society*
  Hara, W., Loo, B. W., Goffinet, D. R., Chang, S. D., Adler, J. R., Pinto, H. A., Fee, W. E., Kaplan, M. J., Fischbein, N. J., Le, Q.
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- **Improved survival of patients with human papillomavirus-positive head and neck squamous cell carcinoma in a prospective clinical trial** *JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE*
  Fakhry, C., Westra, W. H., Cmelak, S. L., Ridge, J. A., Pinto, H., Forastiere, A., Gillison, M. L.
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- **Phase II trial of chemoradiation for organ preservation in resectable stage III or IV squamous cell carcinomas of the larynx or oropharynx: Results of Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group study E2399** *42nd Annual Meeting of the American-Society-of-Clinical-Oncology*
  Cmelak, A. J., Li, S., Goldwasser, M. A., Murphy, B., Cannon, M., Pinto, H., Rosenthal, D. I., Gillison, M., Forastiere, A. A.
  AMER SOC CLINICAL ONCOLOGY.2007: 3971–77

- **Evaluation of patterns of failure and subjective salivary function in patients treated with intensity modulated radiotherapy for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma** *45th Annual Meeting of the American-Society-for-Therapeutic-Radiology-and-Oncology (ASTRO)*
  Daly, M. E., Lieskovsky, Y., Pawlicki, T., Yau, J., Pinto, H., Kaplan, M., Fee, W. E., Koong, A., Goffinet, D. R., Xing, L., Le, Q.
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- **Clinical role of F-18-FDG PET/CT in the management of squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck and thyroid carcinoma** *JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE*
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- **Plasma osteopontin is an independent prognostic marker for head and neck cancers** *41st Annual Meeting of the American-Society-of-Clinical-Oncology*
  Petrik, D., Lavori, P. W., Cao, H., Zhu, Y., Wong, P., Christofferson, E., Kaplan, M. J., Pinto, H. A., Sutphin, P., Koong, A. C., Giaccia, A. J., Le, Q.
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- **Advanced-staged tonsillar squamous carcinoma: Organ preservation versus surgical management of the primary site** *90th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological-Society-of-North-America*
  Shirazi, H. A., Sivanandan, R., Goode, R., Fee, W. E., Kaplan, M. J., Pinto, H. A., Goffinet, D. R., Le, Q.
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- **Phase II double-blind randomized study comparing oral aloe vera versus placebo to prevent radiation-related mucositis in patients with head-and-neck neoplasms** *39th Annual Meeting of the American-Society-of-Clinical-Oncology (ASCO)*
  Su, C. K., Mehta, V., Ravikumar, L., Shah, R., PINTO, H., Halpern, J., Koong, A., Goffinet, D., Le, Q. T.
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  Le, Q. T., Tate, D., Koong, A., Gibbs, I. C., Chang, S. D., Adler, J. R., Pinto, H. A., Terris, D. J., Fee, W. E., Goffinet, D. R.
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- **Comparison of the comet assay and the oxygen microelectrode for measuring tumor oxygenation in head-and-neck cancer patients** *Annual Meeting on Radiation Research*
  Le, Q. T., Kovacs, M. S., Dorie, M. J., Koong, A., Terris, D. J., Pinto, H. A., Goffinet, D. R., Nowels, K., Bloch, D., Brown, J. M.
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- **Identification of osteopontin as a prognostic plasma marker for head and neck squamous cell carcinomas** *CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH*
  Le, Q. T., Sutphin, P. D., Raychaudhuri, S., Yu, S. C., Terris, D. J., Lin, H. S., Lum, B., Pinto, H. A., Koong, A. C., Giaccia, A. J.
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- **Estimating DNA repair by sequential evaluation of head and neck tumor radiation sensitivity using the comet assay** *5th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer of the International-Society-of-Head-Neck-Cancer*
  Terris, D. J., Ho, E. Y., Ibrahim, H. Z., Dorie, M. J., Kovacs, M. S., Le, Q. T., Koong, A. C., Pinto, H. A., Brown, J. M.
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- **Physician perspectives on increasing minorities in cancer clinical trials: An Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) initiative** *Workshop on Participation of Minorities and Women in Clinical Cancer Research*
  Pinto, H. A., McCaskill-Stevens, W., Wolfe, P., Marcus, A. C.
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- **In vivo H-1 MR spectroscopy of human head and neck lymph node metastasis and comparison with oxygen tension measurements** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NEURORADIOLOGY*
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- **Stereotactic radiosurgical boost following radiotherapy in primary nasopharyngeal carcinoma: Impact on local control** *39th Annual Meeting of ASTRO*
  Tate, D. J., Adler, J. R., Chang, S. D., Marquez, S., Eulau, S. M., Fee, W. E., PINTO, H., Goffinet, D. R.
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- **Recruiting minority cancer patients into cancer clinical trials: A pilot project involving the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group and the National Medical Association** *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY*
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  Newman, J. P., Terris, D. J., Pinto, H. A., Fee, W. E., Goode, R. L., Goffinet, D. R.
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- **Distant metastases from head and neck squamous cancer: the role of adjuvant chemotherapy.** *Cancer treatment and research*
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