Repurposing a Laser Device to Eliminate Side Effects of Prostate Cancer Treatment

In 2009, Cures Within Reach funded Drs. Oto and Eggener at the University of Chicago to support the first clinical trial testing a liver cyst laser device in newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients. The trial showed that the laser could kill the cancer without any chance of the patient becoming incontinent or impotent, risks that often occur with other prostate cancer treatments. Nine patients underwent this outpatient therapy with excellent results, leading to successful, larger, NIH-funded trials. This treatment is now routinely offered at the University of Chicago and at other institutions, providing improved patient outcomes.

KEY FACTS AND IMPACT

- CWR funded $40,000 of this $50,000 Clinical Phase 1 trial from 2009 - 2012
- CWR’s initial funding leveraged more than $2.5 million in follow-on funding from the NIH for a successful, larger clinical trial
- Oto and Eggener published more than 7 articles based on this research
- This treatment is now being used at the U of C and several other institutions