

## New Study to Probe Effects of Methionine on Brain Cancer

**T**he Cancer Treatment Research Foundation (CTRF) has announced that it is funding a 2-year study investigating whether the elimination of the amino acid methionine from the diet, coupled with chemotherapy, provides increased survival for patients suffering from glioblastoma multiforme.

Morris D. Groves, MD, Assistant Professor of Neuro-Oncology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, will conduct the study, which will treat patients with

standard chemotherapy combined with a special methionine-free diet. The diet alone should cause some tumor cells to die, but when the diet is combined with chemotherapy, Dr. Groves anticipates a powerful antitumor effect.

“The diet works in many complex ways, but broadly, we believe that it turns ‘on’ genes that help us fight or resist cancer and turns ‘off’ genes that help cancer cells resist standard therapy,” noted Dr. Groves.

To remove methionine from the

diet, patients will need to replace the protein in their diet with the supplement shake Hominex-2. As long as the therapy is working and the side effects are limited, the therapy will be continued for up to 1 year in each patient. Patients with glioblastoma multiforme have an average length of survival after diagnosis of 1 year. As a result, any extension of life is significant.

“Methionine restriction has the potential to be a breakthrough therapy. If proven beneficial, this treatment can easily be expanded to other cancer types and combined with other chemotherapies,” said Kristine Nelson, MD, Vice President of Research for CTRF.