



Research

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

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PANCREATIC CANCER: NEWS & UPDATES December 31, 2008

Neoadjuvant Radiation Therapy Nearly Doubles Survival Rates in Patients with Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.docguide.com/news/content.nsf/news/852571020057CCF68525750D00605E1D#>

Administering radiation therapy prior to surgery nearly doubles survival in pancreatic cancer patients with operable tumors, according to a study in the November 15th issue of the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics*. Senior author David Sherr, MD, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, reports that, "Patients who received presurgical radiation had almost double the overall survival compared with similar patients who didn't undergo radiation, and survived significantly longer than patients receiving radiation after tumor removal.

Overall Survival Predicted by CA 19-9 Levels in Resected Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.hemonctoday.com/article.aspx?rid=33241>

According to data from Radiation Therapy Oncology Group trial 9704, CA 19-9 level may predict overall survival in patients with resected pancreatic cancer. The researchers reported a 72% reduction in the risk for death among patients with a CA 19-9 <180 U/mL compared with those whose level was ≥180 U/mL.

pSivida's BrachySil Pancreatic Cancer Treatment Featured on the BBC

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20081202005802&newsLang=en

pSivida Corp's lead oncology product for treatment of pancreatic cancer, BrachySil™, was featured in a BBC1 primetime investigative news report, 'The One Show.' The news report followed two patients undergoing treatment for different cancers at the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

PharmaEngine Receives Approval of US IND Application for a Phase II Study of PEP02

<http://www.pipelinereview.com/content/view/23759/109/>

PharmaEngine received approval of an Investigational New Drug (IND) application for PEP02, a liposome formulation of irinotecan in a phase II study in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer. Previous phase I data showed excellent pharmacokinetics, tolerability and efficacy of PEP02 in advanced solid tumor patients. The phase II trial will be conducted in the US and Taiwan in 2009 for metastatic pancreatic cancer patients who failed a gemcitabine containing regimen.

IDO2 an Active Enzyme to Target in Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.genengnews.com/news/bnitem.aspx?name=46439523>

Thomas Jefferson University researchers reported at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Southern Surgical Association that an enzyme that is overexpressed in pancreatic cancer cells, indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO), may hold the key to successfully treating the disease with targeted immunotherapy. According to these researchers, IDO is an enzyme that represses the immune system, thus protecting the cancer cells and helping them evade immune detection.

Oral mTOR Inhibitor Everolimus in Patients with Gemcitabine-Refractory Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer

<http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/abstract/JCO.2008.18.9514v1?ct>

A multi-institutional, single-arm, phase II study looked at RAD001 (everolimus), an oral inhibitor of mTOR, in patients who experienced treatment failure on first-line therapy with gemcitabine. Although well-tolerated, RAD001 administered as a single-agent had minimal clinical activity in patients with gemcitabine-refractory, metastatic pancreatic cancer.



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Discovery of New Enzyme in Cancer Growth May Explain Why Cancer Grows; Spreads

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/131821.php>

While studying the mechanics of blood clots, researchers at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center discovered a new enzyme that not only affects the blood, but seems to play a primary role in how cancer tumors expand and spread throughout the body.

Cancer Patients' Race May Affect Well-being

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_72274.html

http://www.cancer.net/patient/News+and+Events/News+Articles?&reuterview=plwc_detail_view&reutersid=11943

Emotional and social quality of life reports from cancer patients may be influenced by race and ethnicity, researchers report in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.

Patients' Photos Help Boost Radiologists' Accuracy

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_72316.html

Clipping a photo of the patient next to their radiological scans helps humanize each case and boosts the accuracy with which scans are read by radiologists, a new study finds.

Negative Trial Results Given to FDA May Go Unpublished or Sanitized

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/ClinicalTrials/11912>

Researchers report that unfavorable industry-sponsored drug studies may wind up buried in the FDA after the agency's scrutiny, never coming to light in the open medical literature.

'Incurable' Cancers Receive More Investment in Cancer Research UK's £1.5 Billion Science Strategy

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/pressreleases/2008/november/incurable-cancers-strategy>

Cancer Research UK today launched an ambitious five-year plan to spend around £300 million a year on core areas of science to reduce cancer deaths - including greater investment in those areas where survival rates remain poor (including pancreatic cancer).

Neogenix Oncology to Begin First Clinical Trial for a New Generation of Diagnostic Products in Colorectal and Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Neogenix-Oncology-Begin-First-Clinical/story.aspx?guid=%7BAC0D0839-54CF-46D1-9933-5FE41665ADBB%7D>

Neogenix Oncology announced the initiation of a diagnostic clinical trial which will assess the effectiveness of a panel of Neogenix monoclonal antibodies as diagnostic markers for colorectal and pancreatic cancer.

Cancer World's Top Killer by 2010

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28139217/>

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/HematologyOncology/OtherCancers/12094>

According to a new World Health Organization report cancer will overtake heart disease as the world's top killer by 2010, part of a trend that should more than double global cancer cases and deaths by 2030, international health experts reported Tuesday. Rising tobacco use in developing countries is believed to be a huge reason for the shift, particularly in China and India, where 40 percent of the world's smokers now live.

Cancer Organizations Team Up For Global Cancer Fight

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/content/NWS_1_1x_Leading_Cancer_Organizations_Team_Up_For_Global_Cancer_Fight.asp

Leaders from the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the Lance Armstrong Foundation have teamed up with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the National Cancer Institute of Mexico to focus attention on the growing international cancer problem. The American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the Lance Armstrong Foundation also issued a 6-point call-to-action outlining steps the incoming US administration can take to ease the global cancer burden.



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Combination Cancer Therapy is Focus of \$1M Merck Research Grant Received by NCCN

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20081202005180&newsLang=en

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network was awarded a \$1M research grant from Merck & Co, Inc., that will support research on the anti-cancer agent vorinostat (Zolinza[®]). Vorinostat is currently used to treat cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. The grant will fund studies to explore the efficacy of vorinostat in combination with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy in selected locally advanced non-metastatic cancers including pancreatic adenocarcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, head and neck cancer, and brain metastases from a solid tumor with an emphasis on lung cancer.

Clinical Trial Participants Prefer Being Informed of Results

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/ClinicalTrials/12088>

While clinical trial participants don't usually find out the results of studies in which they participate, they like it when they do, according to a study by the University of Rochester. In a study of Huntington's Disease patients, 90% of patients in a clinical trial who responded to a survey were gratified by a personal phone call from the researchers soon after findings were released. Although there is no legal mandate to inform participants of study results, the study authors report that providing both positive and negative results should be the "ethical norm" and that the results suggest that any clinical trial participant would appreciate being personally informed of study findings, not just Huntington's patients.

Quintessence Biosciences Cancer Drug, QBI-139, Clears FDA Review to Start Phase I Human Trial

<http://www.quintbio.com/pdf/QBI139%20IND%20Approval%20Dec2008.pdf>

Quintessence Biosciences will begin a phase I trial in the coming months of QBI-139 in patients with solid tumors. Unlike conventional chemotherapies, the EVade[™] Ribonuclease technology provides an opportunity to attack RNA in cancer cells with QBI-139, which is nearly identical to a human protein, pancreatic ribonuclease 1. In preclinical disease models, QBI-139 has shown significant tumor growth inhibition against human pancreatic, non-small cell lung, prostate, and ovarian solid tumors.

Low Molecular Weight Heparin Prevents Thromboembolic Events in Cancer Patients

http://professional.cancerconsultants.com/oncology_main_news.aspx?id=42891

Italian researchers report that the prophylactic administration of nadroparin, a low molecular weight heparin, significantly reduces the incidence of thromboembolic events in patients with cancer receiving chemotherapy.

Possible Therapeutic Target for Pancreatic Cancer

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2008/12/15/pancreatic-cancer-may-have-a-new-foe.html>

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-12/asfc-bmp111908.php

Mayo Clinic researchers have shown that the "Seven-In-Absentia-Homolog" (SIAH) protein can shut down a key pathway in another gene that, in a mutated form, has been previously linked to excessive growth of pancreatic cancer. In experiments with fruit flies, increased SIAH expression was associated with increased grades and aggressiveness of pancreatic cancer. Researchers stated further research should examine whether SIAH inhibition can treat pancreatic cancer in humans.

Medication for Depression Can Also Fight Cancer Drug Resistance

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081218122240.htm>

Tel Aviv University scientists recently completed research which validates that Prozac enhances the effectiveness of the anti-cancer drug doxorubicin. In laboratory experiments, scientists found that Prozac enhanced doxorubicin's efficacy more than 1,000%. Prozac blocked doxorubicin from leaving the interior of the cancer cell and poisoning the healthy non-cancerous cells that surrounded it.



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Tests Cure Cancer in Animals with Colon and Pancreatic Cancer Cells, Human Study Next

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081219/NEWS02/312199956>

The Kanzius RF therapy, currently undergoing testing at MD Anderson Cancer Center, is a promising new cancer treatment that may one day replace radiation and chemotherapy. The Kanzius therapy is noninvasive and uses nontoxic radio waves combined with gold or carbon nanoparticles that attach to cancer cells and then "cooks" tumors inside the body with harmless radio waves. Doctors tested the method on animals with colon and pancreatic cancer cells and within minutes, all those cells were gone. This therapy was featured on CBS' 60 Minutes back in July. See the story here:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/10/60minutes/main4006951.shtml>

Pre-Existing Diabetes for Persons Diagnosed With Cancer Linked With Higher Risk of Death

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/133375.php>

http://www.cancer.net/patient/News+and+Events/News+Articles?&reuterview=plwc_detail_view&reutersid=12073

Patients with diabetes at the time of a cancer diagnosis have an increased risk of death compared to patients without diabetes, according to a meta-analysis of studies reported in the December 17th issue of *JAMA*. The meta-analysis (of 23 studies) indicated that pre-existing diabetes was associated with an increase in all-cause death following cancer diagnosis, compared with individuals with normal glucose levels, across all cancer types. Additional analyses by type of cancer showed that pre-existing diabetes was significantly associated with increased long-term, all-cause death for cancers of the endometrium, breast, and colorectum. Diabetes was associated with a nonsignificant increase in risk in prostate, gastric, hepatocellular, lung and pancreatic cancer.

Economic Cost of Cancer Mortality Is High in U.S., Regardless of How Cost Is Measured

<http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/100/24/1741-b>

According to two studies published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, the economic cost of death due to cancer is high in the United States, regardless of whether researchers estimate the economic impact in lost work productivity or in a more global measure using the value of one year of life. In 2000, cancer deaths cost the United States \$115.8 billion in lost productivity. That estimate jumped to \$147.6 billion for 2020, reflecting projected changes in population size and age. An annual 1% reduction in mortality, compared with current trends from leukemia and lung, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, and brain cancer, would reduce the estimate by \$814 million per year.

Families Want Doctors to Share Bad News

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_72779.html

University of California, San Francisco researchers report that although many doctors worry about breaking bad news about seriously ill patients to their kin, most family members want to know the truth, and that avoiding discussions about prognosis "was not an acceptable way to maintain hope."

Cancer Death Rates and Incidence Down, Annual Report Shows

<http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/100/23/1657-a>

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/content/NWS_1_1x_Cancer_Death_Rates_and_Incidence_Down_Annual_Report_Shows.asp

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27913199/> (includes NBC video)

Tumor Causing Cells Are Common In Some Cancers

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/131721.php>



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Abstracts:

Arsenic Trioxide in Patients with Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Refractory to Gemcitabine: A Phase II Trial of the University of Chicago Phase II Consortium

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19060586?dopt=AbstractPlus>

S-1 and Gemcitabine as an Outpatient-based Regimen in Patients with Advanced or Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19060295?dopt=AbstractPlus>

Oral mTOR Inhibitor Everolimus in Patients With Gemcitabine-Refractory Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19047305?dopt=AbstractPlus>

Histopathological Response to Preoperative Chemoradiation for Resectable Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma: the French Phase II FFCD 9704-SFRO Trial

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19060585?dopt=AbstractPlus>

Medical-Oncological Aspects in the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19048221?dopt=AbstractPlus>

A Food Pattern that is Predictive of Flavonol Intake and Risk of Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19064528?dopt=AbstractPlus>

BRCA Germline Mutations in Jewish Patients with Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19064968?dopt=AbstractPlus>