

PHARMACY CORNER

Investigational Immunotherapy May Improve Survival

Researchers from Dendreon Corporation presented data demonstrating the correlation of the cumulative potency of Provenge® (sipuleucel-T), an investigational active cellular immunotherapy for hormone-refractory prostate cancer, with overall survival; the first time that an association between higher potency of an active immune therapy and increased patient survival has been reported.

Results showed that patients taking Provenge experienced improved survival if they received more cells across the three doses of Provenge. The study's correlation between patient survival and a measure of the cumulative potency of Provenge has not been demonstrated.

Provenge may be a breakthrough in a new class of active cellular immunotherapies that are uniquely designed to use live human cells to engage the patient's own immune system with the goal of eliciting specific, long-lasting responses to cancer. Patients in clinical studies typically received three doses of Provenge over a one-month period as a complete course of therapy.

Multiple Strengths Unveiled for Pain Medication



Purdue Pharma has released OxyContin® (oxycodone) in 15 mg, 30 mg, and 60 mg tablets, complementing the 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, and 80 mg dose strengths already available. The new tablets were introduced in response to requests from healthcare professionals for greater flexibility in dosing and titration. The new tablets may reduce the need for multiple prescriptions, corresponding patient copayments, and the number of tablets needed to achieve a specific therapeutic dose.

For more information, contact Purdue's Medical Services Department at +1-888-726-7535.

NEW PRODUCTS

Postsurgical Bra Secures Dressings

Dale Medical Products, Inc., has unveiled a postsurgical bra that securely and comfortably holds dressings and eases examinations

and treatments for a variety of procedures, such as mastectomy, lumpectomy, biopsy, reduction, and reconstruction.

The Dale Postsurgical Bra® features a stretch knit fabric that helps the surgical site breathe. In addition, a smooth, seamless design stretches to provide proper compression and support and a Velcro™-like front closure helps facilitate dressing changes.

The bra was developed to replace elasticized bandages, T-shirts, and traditional sports bras, and can be worn as a leisure or sleep bra following surgery. In addition, the bra is latex free, eliminating hypersensitivity reactions in patients and caregivers.

For more information, visit www.dalemed.com.

Cleaning System Developed for Ostomy Pouch



a water source to directly flush out pouch contents, meaning patients or caregivers no longer have to touch contents of the pouch.

The system is accessed through an inlet opening on the top of the pouch where the water source is attached. The patient directs the pouch drain into the toilet bowl and presses a water valve trigger that creates water turbulence to wash away waste and clean the stoma area. Gently rubbing the exterior of the pouch in the area surrounding the stoma ensures total cleaning.

For video instructions or more information, visit www.ostomyezclean.com.

Video and Guide Promote Breast Health in Younger Women and Minorities



Project Early Awareness, a collaborative effort by the Prevent Cancer Foundation (formerly the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation) and Howard University Cancer Center have released Breast Health Education for Young Women, a facilitator's guide and educational video designed to promote healthy breast habits for younger women, particularly minorities. The materials are designed for nationwide use in school and community group settings.



Project Early Awareness hopes to provide young women with an increased awareness and knowledge about breast cancer and valuable skills to put into practice. In addition, the young women may present the information

to other women in their families, spreading the knowledge and encouraging them to get screened for breast cancer.

The 14-minute educational video includes facts about breast cancer, a demonstration of a breast self-examination, an overview of mammography, treatment options, and survivor stories. The video may be ordered at www.preventcancer.org.

The facilitator's guide can be used by health teachers in a group setting. The guide contains instructions for facilitating interactive activities, including a discussion of the video, a demonstration and practice of breast self-examinations using breast models, a critical thinking exercise, and role play. Information on how the activities may be used to meet national or international educational content standards also is contained in the guide. The guide can be downloaded or may be ordered at www.preventcancer.org.

Wound Dressing Reduces Pain

A large multinational survey has shown that the use of dressings with Safetac® (Molnlycke Health Care U.S.) soft silicone adhesive technology have resulted in reduced pain at dressing changes compared with advanced dressings with traditional adhesives. The Pain on Removal Cases (PORC) survey involved more than 3,000 patients from 20 countries. The survey was conducted to assess patients' pain experiences when using different advanced dressings with traditional adhesives compared with advanced dressings with Safetac soft silicone adhesive technology. The patients initially were treated with a traditional adhesive dressing (polyurethane, acrylic, or a hydrocolloid-based adhesive) and more than 90% indicated that they preferred dressings with Safetac technology.

Mention of specific products and opinions related to those products do not indicate or imply endorsement by the Oncology Nursing Forum or the Oncology Nursing Society.

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