

CANCER DRUG APPROVAL IN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND JAPAN R.A.V. MILSTED pdf

1: Hypertension and risk of prostate cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis

For cancer patients in Europe, this proved to be a disastrous gap since over the last 10 years, the drug lag in the approval times for new cancer drugs between Europe and the United States has reversed in favor of the United States, as the FDA has been able to use its provisions for accelerated review.

Available in inexpensive generic formulations Added convenience of monthly oral dosing Two dosing forms with long dosing intervals, IV dosing benefits patients unable to use oral bisphosphonates IV dosing with longest dosing interval Open in a separate window Demonstration of fracture risk reduction considers only prospective randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials. Chemical structure, pharmacological properties, and mechanism of action The affinity of bisphosphonates for hydroxyapatite and the magnitude of the antiresorptive effect are modulated by side chains designated R1 and R2 that are attached to the central carbon atom of the $\text{P}^{\text{O}}\text{C}^{\text{O}}\text{P}$ core structure. An R1 substituent with a hydroxyl -OH or primary amino -NH_2 group enhances attachment to hydroxyapatite, while variations in R2 are associated with substantial differences in antiresorptive potency and as well as differences in affinity for hydroxypapatite [Russell et al. Differences in binding affinity may result in differences in drug uptake and retention in the skeleton, diffusion within bone, and release and reuptake by bone. These factors, in turn, may be associated with differences in the rate of onset of antiresorptive effect when initiating bisphosphonate therapy and the rate of offset of effect when discontinuing therapy. This concept is supported by clinical data, such as a head-to-head clinical trial showing that treatment with alendronate resulted in a faster and greater reduction in bone turnover markers, as well as larger gains in BMD, compared with risedronate [Rosen et al. The antiresorptive effect of a single intravenous IV dose of zoledronate persists for at least 1 year [Reid et al. After attachment to the bone surface, bisphosphonates are internalized by osteoclasts, resulting in inhibition of osteoclast function and survival. Nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates inhibit osteoclastic bone resorption through a different mechanism of action. After entering the cytosol of the osteoclast, these drugs inhibit farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase FPPS , an enzyme in the mevalonate pathway the same pathway responsible for the synthesis of cholesterol , thereby reducing the prenylation posttranslational modification of small guanosine triphosphate GTP ase signaling proteins. This decrease in prenylation has effects that include loss of the osteoclast ruffled border, the cell membrane that is adjacent to the bone surface and essential for bone resorption, and inhibition of release of lysosomal enzymes, impairment of acidification, and reduction of osteoclast survival, resulting in reduced function and survival of osteoclasts. It is therefore recommended that they be taken after an overnight fast with a glass of plain water followed by a postdose fast of 30 minutes alendronate, risedronate or 60 minutes ibandronate. In order to minimize contact of the drug with the esophagus and reduce the risk of GI side effects, it is also advised that patients remain upright during the postdose fasting period. Efficacy Prospective randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials RCTs have demonstrated a reduction in vertebral fracture risk in women with PMO treated with daily oral alendronate [Cummings et al. Monthly oral ibandronate [Miller et al. RCTs have shown reduction of nonvertebral fracture risk with alendronate [Black et al. Hip fracture risk reduction has been observed with alendronate [Black et al. A meta-analysis of data from four ibandronate clinical trials showed a reduction in the risk of nonvertebral fractures with doses currently used in clinical practice [Harris et al. Despite the proven antifracture efficacy of bisphosphonates in RCTs, their effectiveness in clinical practice has been limited by poor compliance and persistence with therapy [Cramer et al. Patients may not take an oral bisphosphonate correctly because they never received proper instructions, did not remember the instructions, or did not understand the rationale for such a complex dosing regimen. Patients may fail to continue to take medication because of side effects, perceived side effects, fear of side effects, cost, distrust of medications in general, or belief systems that differ from those of the prescribing physician. Poor compliance and persistence lead to a smaller BMD response [Yood et al. Efforts to improve clinical outcomes with bisphosphonate therapy have included lengthening the dosing

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interval from daily to as long as once monthly with oral risedronate and ibandronate, once every 3 months with IV ibandronate, and once yearly with IV zoledronate. While some studies have shown modest improvement in persistence with longer dosing intervals [Cooper et al. In the subgroup of clinical practice patients who are persistent with therapy, there appears to be a reduction in fracture risk that is similar to what has been observed in RCTs [Wilkes et al. Safety The safety of osteoporosis therapy is a matter of major importance for physicians who prescribe the drugs and patients who take them. In RCTs, reported adverse events are generally mild and similar in subjects treated with bisphosphonates or placebo. However, with millions of prescriptions written for these drugs in clinical practice, safety concerns, real or perceived, have arisen. Very rare adverse events may not be evident until many years after drug approval. Often potential side effects are initially presented as case reports in medical journals, sometimes with no clear causal relationship, no indication of the number of patients exposed to the drug in proportion to the number with the reported side effect, and no data on the risk of the same symptoms in patients not exposed to the drug. These reports may receive major coverage in the news media with little consideration of benefit versus potential harm. Since perception of harm weighs far more heavily in the minds of patients than actual probability of harm, potential risks with a wide range of probability are reviewed here. Gastrointestinal intolerance Oral bisphosphonates have been shown to cause upper GI injury in animals, especially after repeated daily exposure, with an acidic gastroesophageal milieu, and pre-existing esophageal irritation [Peter et al. GI toxicity with bisphosphonates is likely a local effect rather than a systemic one, since these agents are rapidly bound to bone following absorption and normally only exist in high concentrations in the GI tract prior to absorption. In RCTs, there has been no reported difference in GI adverse events in bisphosphonate-treated subjects compared with controls [Cryer and Bauer,]. Patients with preexisting upper GI disorders such as esophageal stricture, achalasia, or poorly controlled gastroesophageal reflux disease should not be treated with oral bisphosphonates. Generic oral alendronate, now commonly used as first-line therapy for osteoporosis, may impart a greater risk of upper GI side effects and possibly a reduced therapeutic response compared with the brand name product. This is suggested by reports of a longer esophageal transit time [Perkins et al. IV bisphosphonates have not been associated with an increase in GI side effects [Black et al. Esophageal cancer In , a letter to the editor of a medical journal reported that the FDA had received reports of 23 patients with esophageal cancer who had been exposed to alendronate [Wysowski,]. An additional 31 cases of esophageal cancer in Europe and Japan were reported in patients treated with alendronate or other oral bisphosphonates. The reports did not provide data on the expected rate of esophageal cancer in similar patients not exposed to bisphosphonates and did not state the number of patients treated with bisphosphonates who were not diagnosed with esophageal cancer. National registry data from Europe [Abrahamsen et al. While more data are needed to fully assess the possibility of a link between bisphosphonate use and esophageal cancer, at this time there is no evidence to support a causal relationship. Osteonecrosis of the jaw Osteonecrosis of the jaw ONJ , first reported in association with bisphosphonates in [Marx,], has been defined as exposed bone in the maxillofacial region with no healing within 8 weeks of identification by a healthcare provider, in a patient with exposure to a bisphosphonate and no history of radiation therapy to the craniofacial area [Khosla et al. In clinical trials of bisphosphonates for the treatment of osteoporosis involving more than 60, patient-years of exposure, no cases of ONJ have been prospectively identified. In a retrospective review of data in a large clinical trial with zoledronate, one potential case of ONJ was diagnosed in the treatment group and one in the placebo group [Black et al. The risk of ONJ in patients receiving bisphosphonates for the treatment of osteoporosis is estimated to be between 1 in 10, and 1 in , patient-treatment years [Khosla et al. There is no evidence that IV bisphosphonates for the treatment of osteoporosis incur a greater risk than oral bisphosphonates. A causal relationship between bisphosphonate use and ONJ has not been clearly established, although it seems plausible, and the mechanism for such a relationship, if it exists, is unknown. In most patients, the benefit of reduction of fracture risk in patients treated for osteoporosis far outweighs the very remote potential risk of ONJ. Hypocalcemia Oral and IV bisphosphonates reduce calcium efflux from bone

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and commonly cause a small decrease in serum calcium and compensatory rise in serum parathyroid hormone PTH [Chesnut et al. Hypocalcemia defined as a serum calcium level less than 7. Symptomatic hypocalcemia occurs rarely but may be life threatening and require hospitalization [Maalouf et al. Patients with baseline hypocalcemia should not be treated with bisphosphonates until the underlying problem has been evaluated and the low serum calcium level is corrected. Acute phase reaction Transient flu-like symptoms, collectively called an acute phase reaction APR , may occur after administration of bisphosphonates. This may be caused by the rapid release of pro-inflammatory cytokines from circulating T cells [Hewitt et al. APR is seen rarely with oral therapy more likely with monthly than weekly or daily dosing and more commonly following IV bisphosphonates. It most often occurs in patients not previously treated with bisphosphonates and is less likely to occur on subsequent dosing. The likelihood of having an APR after an IV bisphosphonate may be reduced by administration of acetaminophen paracetamol prior to dosing [National Osteoporosis Foundation,] and for several days thereafter. Atrial fibrillation The possibility that bisphosphonates might cause atrial fibrillation was raised in the pivotal trial of zoledronate for the treatment of PMO [Black et al. An increased incidence of atrial fibrillation as a serious adverse event often associated with hospitalization, whether or not the atrial fibrillation was the reason for hospitalization was observed 1. The overall incidence of atrial fibrillation was not significantly different between groups, and these events were not related to the timing of drug infusion, APR, or electrolyte imbalance. An increased risk of atrial fibrillation has not been observed in other studies with zoledronate. Post-hoc analyses of bisphosphonate clinical trials [Lewiecki et al. Since that time, other case reports of bisphosphonate-treated patients having atypical subtrochanteric femur fractures have emerged [Lenart et al. Some but not all patients in these reports had severely suppressed bone turnover as assessed by absence of tetracycline labeling on transiliac bone biopsies. However, very low bone turnover and absence of tetracycline labeling has been reported in some untreated patients with osteoporosis [Kimmel et al. More data are needed to define the relationship, if there is one, between bisphosphonates and these types of fractures. A secondary analysis of 3 large, randomized bisphosphonate trials with alendronate and zoledronate involving 14, women and 55, person-years of observation found that subtrochanteric and diaphyseal femur fractures were very rare, even in women treated with bisphosphonates as long as 10 years [Black et al. Impaired fracture healing The natural process of fracture healing is characterized by an initial osteoclast-independent inflammatory phase and subsequent formation of a woven bone callus, followed by remodeling of woven bone to lamellar bone that depends on osteoclast activity [Goldhahn et al. The treatment of patients at high risk for fracture with antiresorptive drugs, particularly bisphosphonates, has raised concern over possible adverse effects on fracture healing due to changes in the function of osteoclasts [Fleisch,]. Animal studies have shown that bisphosphonate treatment is associated with a callus that is either the same size or larger, with delayed remodeling to lamellar bone, and mechanical strength that is similar or greater than controls [Fleisch,]. Large clinical trials with bisphosphonates for the treatment of PMO have not shown impairment of fracture healing. In a recent review of osteoporosis therapy in acute fracture settings, the International Society for Fracture Repair concluded that there is no evidence to support withholding antiresorptive therapy while a fracture heals, whether or not the patient was taking such therapy when the fracture occurred [Goldhahn et al. However, a post-hoc analysis of clinical trial data in patients treated with risedronate showed that those with mild, moderate, and severe impairment of baseline renal function had preserved BMD, reduced incidence of vertebral fractures, and stable serum creatinine levels [Miller et al. Similar findings were reported in a post-hoc analysis of alendronate clinical trial data [Jamal et al. Taken as a whole, the data suggest that oral bisphosphonates are effective and safe in patients with mild, moderate, and perhaps severe chronic kidney disease. There are no data on efficacy and safety in patients with kidney failure end-stage renal disease , i. Although nephrotoxicity has been described in cancer patients receiving rapid monthly IV infusions of zoledronate [Perazella and Markowitz,], this appears to be a very rare occurrence in well-hydrated patients treated for osteoporosis with the recommended dose and infusion rate. In two large clinical trials of zoledronate 5 mg IV given over at least 15 minutes for the treatment of osteoporosis, no drug-related cases of

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acute renal failure were reported [Black et al. Similarly, there were no drug-related cases of acute renal failure in a large clinical trial with ibandronate IV 2 mg every 2 months and 3 mg every 3 months given over 15â€”30 seconds [Delmas et al. A few additional patients taking risedronate were reported to have similar symptoms. There is no evidence of a causal relationship between bisphosphonates and these symptoms, and no rationale has been provided that might explain such a relationship. Nevertheless, continued awareness of this potential adverse effect of bisphosphonate therapy is appropriate. Common clinical issues with bisphosphonates The management of osteoporosis presents many challenges [Lewiecki,], among which are decisions on starting, stopping, or changing bisphosphonate therapy. Often the medical evidence to guide these decisions is limited, nonexistent, or not applicable to the patient being treated. The application of evidence-based medicine and clinical practice guidelines to the care of individual patients requires consideration of all available information, including patient preferences, previous drug experiences, and affordability of treatment, tempered with the thoughtful judgment of a well-informed healthcare provider [Lewiecki and Binkley,]. The following identifies a few of the many decision-making points involving bisphosphonate treatment, with suggestions for effective strategies in patient management. Other strategies may be equally valid depending on clinical circumstances. Selection of a bisphosphonate Once a decision to treat with a bisphosphonate has been made, a choice must be made to prescribe one of them. Which bisphosphonate is best? In the absence of head-to-head clinical trials with fractures as the primary endpoint, it is not possible to determine which one provides the greatest reduction in fracture risk [MacLean et al. Cost considerations often mandate initiation of therapy with generic alendronate, provided no contraindications are present. Clinicians must be mindful of data suggesting that generic alendronate may be associated with greater risk of GI side effects and poorer persistence compared with the branded bisphosphonate product. In a patient with a questionable GI side effect from an oral bisphosphonate, discontinuation of the drug and rechallenge with the same or different oral bisphosphonate after symptoms have resolved may sometimes be effective [Adachi et al. IV bisphosphonates are an alternative choice for primary treatment of osteoporosis, with particular clinical utility for patients with GI contraindications, GI adverse events, malabsorption, or poor response to therapy with oral bisphosphonates. Compliance and persistence to therapy Once a bisphosphonate is started, it is imperative that the patient take the drug regularly, correctly, and for a sufficient length of time to benefit from reduction in fracture risk. Before therapy is started, patients should be educated on the risk of fractures, the serious consequences of fractures, and the goal of therapy i.

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2: Clinical Development of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Whereas in Japan, approval for cancer drugs has traditionally been on the basis of Phase IIb studies with a post-approval commitment to supply survival data within six years.

Abstract Previous study in our laboratory demonstrated suppression of the gene for protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor-type O PTPRO in primary and established rat hepatomas. The present study showed methylation-mediated silencing of this gene in primary human lung tumors and in several human lung cancer cell lines, one of the characteristics of many tumor-suppressor genes. Demethylation of the gene by deoxyazacytidine treatment led to its reactivation in a lung cancer line A. Overexpression of PTPRO in A cells inhibited anchorage-independent growth, delayed reentry of the cells into the cell cycle after release from cell-cycle arrest, and increased susceptibility of the cells to apoptosis. These data have demonstrated the growth-suppressor characteristics of PTPRO that are unique to a classical tumor suppressor. A close relationship exists between the development of cancer and inactivation of tumor-suppressor genes. Loss of gene function can occur as a result of allelic deletion, coding-region mutation, down-regulation of its transcription because of mutation in cis elements, or aberrant expression of transcription factors. There is substantial evidence that DNA-methylation patterns are altered in cancer. In general, cancer cells exhibit global hypomethylation and regional hypermethylation. In contrast to regional hypermethylation, which occurs in CpG-dense regions located in close proximity to the promoters of certain genes, loss of methylation in cancer cells occurs in regions with sparse distribution of CpG dinucleotides 1, 2. In the course of our investigation on altered methylation patterns in the rat liver tumors induced by folate deficiency, we found that the gene for protein tyrosine phosphatase receptortype O PTPRO is suppressed because of its methylation in the primary hepatomas 3. Its expression in other tissues has not been analyzed in detail 5, 10. Overexpression of PTPRO-FL is known to cause apoptosis of the monoblastoid leukemia cell line U after terminal differentiation induced by phorbol esters. Our recent studies have shown that the PTPRO gene can be suppressed by methylation in primary and established rat liver tumors 3. Here, we show that this gene is also methylated in primary human lung cancers and that the expression of PTPRO correlates inversely with methylation of its CpG island in these primary tumors. Additionally, we have demonstrated many other growth-suppressor characteristics of this receptor-type PTP in human lung cancer.

Materials and Methods

Primary Human Tumors. Complete pathologic classification is available for all tumor samples studied. All tissues used for this study were part of an institutional review board-approved protocol at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Cell Lines and Treatments. The four lung cancer cell lines used in this study A, H23, H, and H were maintained and treated with deoxyazacytidine DAC as described. Preparation of genomic DNA and treatment with sodium bisulfite were performed according to a protocol optimized in our laboratory 14. Total RNA was isolated by using the guanidinium isothiocyanate-acid phenol method. Forty-eight hours after transfection, the cells were split 1:1. At the same time, nontransfected A cells were used as control for drug selection, and all cells died within 5-6 days. Immunostaining of the selected A cells was performed essentially as described 18 with minor modifications. A detailed description is provided in Supporting Materials and Methods. This assay was performed as described. For details, see Supporting Materials and Methods. After release into complete growth medium for 4 h, the cells were pulsed with BrdUrd and observed by immunocytochemistry as described in Supporting Materials and Methods.

Induction of Apoptosis by Staurosporine. The cells were observed under a phase-contrast microscope for morphological changes indicative of apoptosis and photographed by using a Nikon digital camera. After washing with PBS, the coverslips were mounted on slides and observed under a fluorescence microscope. To determine whether methylation of the PTPRO gene was tumor-type-specific as observed for hepatocellular carcinomas or a more common phenomenon occurring in other types of tumors as well, we analyzed several primary lung tumors. Treatment with sodium bisulfite converts the cytosine residues in the genomic DNA to uracils, whereas the

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methylated cytosines remain unaltered. We used primers spanning CpG island in exon 1 of human PTPRO, because de novo DNA methylation in many human primary tumors initiates within exon 1 of tumor-suppressor genes and subsequently spreads to the promoter region. We also performed bisulfite genomic sequencing with a few primary lung tumors and their matching normal tissues to confirm methylation observed in the tumor and to study the methylation profile at individual CpGs within the CpG island. The methylation status of each CpG within the sequenced region for a representative set of lung tumor and its matching normal tissue is depicted in Fig. The data clearly reveal heavy methylation of CpGs in the tumors but a relatively methylation-free CpG island in the corresponding normal adjacent tissues.

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3: New Drugs - List of Latest FDA Approvals - www.enganchecubano.com

Genomics in Cancer Drug Discovery and Development. Cancer Drug Approval in the United States, Europe, and Japan. R.A.V. Milsted. Pages

Open in a separate window Abbreviations: Thus, PD-1 is considered to play an important role in chronic inflammation such as that associated with viral infection or tumor exposure [58]. Blockade of this pathway was shown to restore and augment antitumor immune activities [62]. Phase I studies tested nivolumab in such cancers as melanoma, non-small cell carcinoma of the lung NSCLC , ovarian cancer, and renal cell carcinoma. In long-term follow-up of the phase I trial for advanced melanoma, median OS was 16 months. The patients requiring discontinuation of treatment maintained their tumor responses for at least 16 months. Long-term safety profiles were acceptable and similar to those described in a previous report [8]. AEs were generally manageable and grade 3 to 4 AEs occurred in 3 patients, including rash, increased transaminase, and hyperglycemia [66]. This study was stopped ahead of schedule and unblinded after independent data monitoring committee found significant survival superiority in nivolumab over dacarbazine. The results from the double-blind part of the study before the stoppage showed that the OS rate at 1 year was significantly higher in the nivolumab arm. Grade 3 to 4 drug-related AEs occurred in more patients in the dacarbazine arm. No drug-related deaths occurred in both arms [11]. In Japan, in July , nivolumab received manufacturing and marketing approval for unresectable melanoma from the domestic regulator, the Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare, which made nivolumab the first in anti-PD-1 antibody to receive regulatory approval in the world. In animal models, an antitumor effect was achieved with BAT monoclonal antibody a murine mAb developed against a membrane preparation of a Burkitt lymphoma cell line , from which pidilizumab is derived [67 , 68]. In humans, the safety and tolerability of the single dose regimen were shown in a phase I study of patients with advanced hematologic malignancies [69]. No treatment-related toxicities occurred and the maximum tolerated dose was not identified in this trial. Pidilizumab has been tested in phase II trials, as monotherapy for patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma after autologous hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation [70] and as combined therapy with rituximab for relapsed follicular lymphoma [71]. Both trials showed promising efficacies even in high-risk patients. The results of a phase II trial in patients with pretreated advanced melanoma were recently reported. All dose levels were found to be safe, and the maximum tolerated dose was not identified. Clinical responses were observed at all dose levels. These responses were durable, with the median PFS exceeding 7 months for all three regimens. Besides melanoma, several early trials have showed the tolerability and antitumor effects of pembrolizumab in other tumors. AEs were generally mild and grade 3 to 4 AEs occurred in 3 patients, including pneumonitis requiring treatment discontinuation [14]. Grade 3 to 4 drug-related AEs were reported in 24 patients. Median follow-up period was 6 months. Responses were mostly ongoing and the median response duration was not reached [16]. PD-L1 is inducibly expressed on a variety of hematopoietic and nonhematopoietic cells, including most human tumor cells and cells within the tumor microenvironment [61]. PD-L1 expression has been shown to correlate inversely with the clinical outcomes of some malignancies. PD-L2 is expressed on hematopoietic cells. PD-L1 knockout mice show infiltration of lymphocytes into nonlymphoid organs and exacerbation of preexisting autoimmune diseases [73 , 74]. As mentioned above, the PD-L1 axis is one of the main mechanisms by which cancer cells evade immune-cell attack [61]. Blockade of this pathway was shown to reinforce antitumor immune activities [62]. The study drug was administered at 4 dose levels. It is genetically engineered to modify the Fc domain, thereby impairing the antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity of PD-L1 expressing cells [77 , 78]. The results of another phase I trial were recently reported. MEDI demonstrated tumor regression and improved survival in a mouse model. The interim report was recently presented. As of January , 26 patients were receiving dose-escalation treatments and had been

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given a median of 5.25 q2w and 4. No dose limiting toxicities DLTs or maximum tolerated dose was identified. Four of the 26 patients showed partial responses PRs. Twenty-three patients had been followed for at least 4 weeks. Discontinuation of the treatment had been necessary in 12 patients. Grade 3 to 4 drug-related toxicities included laboratory abnormalities in 3 patients. Combination Therapy Recent clinical trials have actively investigated the potential for synergistic effects by combining immune checkpoint inhibitors with other agents. A phase I study evaluated combined therapy with ipilimumab plus nivolumab in patients with advanced melanoma [80]. The patients received ipilimumab once every 3 weeks for 4 doses and nivolumab once every 3 weeks for 8 doses concurrently. Then, eligible patients were permitted to receive both once every 12 weeks up to 8 doses. Biomarkers for Predicting Clinical Benefits and Adverse Reactions Although immune checkpoint inhibitors have shown promising safety and efficacy, to date only a small proportion of patients have achieved long-term survival, with severe irAEs occurring on occasion. Biomarkers predicting clinical benefit may enable physicians to select individualized treatments for their patients and thereby maximize clinical benefits. Several biomarkers for examining T-cell proliferation or activation and other forms of antigen-specific immunity have been assessed in the context of immune checkpoint inhibitors. In a phase I study of nivolumab, though the data obtained are preliminary, an objective response was seen only in the patients who showed immunohistochemical PD-L1 expression in pretreatment tumor specimens [63]. These observations may support the strategy of selecting PD-L1-positive patients for therapy. However, PD-L1 expression on tumor cells is inducible and is susceptible to influences of the tumor microenvironment. Furthermore, technical advances in PD-L1 immunostaining are still needed. Also, the value of PD-L1 IHC staining as a predictive biomarker for combination therapy with nivolumab plus ipilimumab has yet to be validated [80]. Another potential biomarker is pretreatment levels of monocytic myeloid-derived suppressor cells m-MDSCs [82 , 83]. Recent genetic analysis using whole-exome sequencing showed the significance of somatic mutational load as predictive biomarker of clinical benefit in melanoma patients treated with CTLA-4 blockade. The neopeptide signature associated with clinical response was identified and predicted mutant peptides were verified to activate patient T cell in vitro [84]. These possibilities await further research. Conclusion Immune checkpoint inhibitors have opened a new era of cancer immunotherapy. Since the FDA approval was obtained for the anti-CTLA-4 monoclonal antibody ipilimumab, several large-scale clinical trials have evaluated new agents both alone and in combinations with other conventional or new therapies. Future challenges include exploring new target molecules and immune cells, optimizing dosing regimens and combination therapies, validating the safety and efficacy of these novel treatment strategies in many other malignancies, establishing an immunomonitoring system to be applied during therapy, and identifying biomarkers predicting clinical responses and toxicities. Active, ongoing investigations are anticipated to provide further clinical benefits for patients with cancers that are currently refractory to treatment. Conflict of Interests The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper. Molecular mechanisms of T cell co-stimulation and co-inhibition. Immune modulation in cancer with antibodies. Annual Review of Medicine. The blockade of immune checkpoints in cancer immunotherapy. Improved survival with ipilimumab in patients with metastatic melanoma. The New England Journal of Medicine. Ipilimumab plus dacarbazine for previously untreated metastatic melanoma. Phase III randomized clinical trial comparing tremelimumab with standard-of-care chemotherapy in patients with advanced melanoma. Journal of Clinical Oncology. Survival, durable tumor remission, and long-term safety in patients with advanced melanoma receiving nivolumab. Safety, efficacy, and biomarkers of nivolumab with vaccine in ipilimumab-refractory or -naïve melanoma. Nivolumab in previously untreated melanoma without BRAF mutation. Phase 2, multicenter, safety and efficacy study of pidilizumab in patients with metastatic melanoma. Safety and tumor responses with lambrolizumab anti-PD-1 in melanoma. A phase 1b study of pembrolizumab Pembro; MK in patients Pts with advanced gastric cancer. Safety and activity of anti-PD-L1 antibody in patients with advanced cancer. Co-inhibitory molecules of the B7-CD28 family in the control of T-cell immunity. Signaling pathways and implications for cancer immunotherapy.

4: Present and Future: Pharmacologic Treatment of Obesity

Genomics in cancer drug discovery and development. Cancer Drug Approval in the United States, Europe, and Japan / R.A.V. Cancer Drug Approval in the United.

This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License , which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. Abstract Obesity now presents one of the biggest health problems of our times. Diet and exercise are best for both prevention and treatment; unfortunately, both require much discipline and are difficult to maintain. Medications offer a possible adjunct, but their effect is modest, they are limited by side effects, and the weight loss lasts only as long as the drug is being taken, since as soon as treatment is stopped, the weight is regained. Sibutramine, a sympathomimetic medication which was available for long-term treatment, is the most recent of the drugs to be withdrawn from the market due to side effects; in this case it was an increased risk of cardiovascular events. This paper reviews those medications which are available for treatment of obesity, including many of those recently taken off the market. It also discusses some of the newer treatments that are currently being investigated. Introduction Obesity has become one of the biggest health problems of our times. The WHO further projects that by approximately 2012. At least 20 million children younger than 5 years old were overweight in [1]. Although obesity has been labeled a disease for over years [2], only recently has it been recognized as a condition that warrants medical attention. This is especially true given the mounting data on the correlation between obesity and type 2 diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and depression. Obesity is associated with osteoarthritis, obstructive sleep apnea, increased risk of cancer, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. It is related to a variety of other complications, such as gastrointestinal reflux disease, gout, headache, cellulitis, chronic renal failure, hypogonadism, and erectile dysfunction, among others. Moreover, obesity is associated with a reduced quality of life and social stigmatization [3 , 4]. Unfortunately, doctors remain reluctant to bring up the topic of obesity when seeing patients in their clinic. This low involvement on the part of the doctor may be due, in part, to the fact that at this time there is still no magic bullet for the treatment of obesity, and diet and exercise continue to be the cornerstone of treatment. Given the frustrations doctors and patients face in achieving results by diet and exercise, drug therapy offers an attractive option, even if the results are modest. Unfortunately, despite the frantic search at the moment for pharmacotherapy, few options currently exist. In the last few years many drugs that have been effective weight loss medications have had to be withdrawn from the market secondary to unacceptable side effects. Fen-Phen, which was marketed as a combination of two drugs fenfluramine and phentermine, was removed from the market in September , after it was reported that it could cause valvular heart disease and pulmonary hypertension [6]. In , phenylpropanolamine, an over-the-counter weight loss drug, was found to be an independent risk factor for hemorrhagic stroke in women [7]. The first selective CB1 receptor blocker, Rimonabant, was never approved in the USA, but was available in 56 countries from July to January , when it was withdrawn from the European market due to the fact that it caused increased depression and suicidal ideation [8]. More recently, in October , sibutramine, a centrally acting serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor structurally related to amphetamines, was withdrawn from the market because of its association with increased cardiovascular events and strokes [9]. It will also discuss some of the newer treatments that are currently being investigated. While bariatric surgery has been increasing in popularity, and certainly offers a powerful tool with which to treat obesity, it is beyond the scope of this paper. Indications for Medical Therapy Obesity is defined as a body mass index BMI; calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters of 30 or more. Clinical practice guidelines for the pharmacologic and surgical management of obesity in primary care have been issued by the American College of Physicians ACP [10]. These guidelines are based upon the results of two meta-analyses [11 , 12] and the existing guidelines from the United States Preventive Services Task Force. The guidelines include five

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recommendations. These risk factors are hypertension, dyslipidemia, coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and sleep apnea [13]. These recommendations may possibly change soon, in light of the new findings linking sibutramine to an increased rate of cardiac events [9].

Goals of Therapy Perhaps the most important aspect of starting pharmacological treatment for obesity is to set realistic goals. Given the difficulties of dieting, it is nearly impossible to reach the patients expectations. If this is not achieved, then the dose should be adjusted or the medication discontinued. Although weight loss is an important treatment outcome, a major goal of obesity management should be to improve cardiovascular and metabolic risk factors in order to reduce obesity-related morbidity and mortality. Patients who have impaired glucose tolerance, type 2 diabetes, or hypertension are the ones who benefit the most as far as improvement in cardiovascular risk factors [22]. When starting pharmacological therapy it is important that the patient understands that once the maximal therapeutic effect is achieved, weight loss plateaus and that when drug therapy is discontinued, the weight is regained [17]. Because the body reduces its energy expenditure as it loses weight, more and more effort must be made to maintain the weight loss [24]. Weight regain results from complex interactions between multiple factors including physiologic, environmental, and psychological factors. Physiologic factors include reduced metabolic rate, both resting and nonresting [25 , 26], and increased adipose tissue lipoprotein lipase activity [27]. These counterregulatory mechanisms protect against starvation by causing an increase in appetite and a decrease in energy expenditure, making it very difficult to keep off the weight that was lost. Patients must also be made aware of the fact that the data on the use of these medications is limited, given that the longest trials for sibutramine have a duration of only two years, and for orlistat a maximum of four years. The trials for the remaining medications are even shorter. Therefore, if there is a good response to the medication and the patient wishes to continue, the decision should be a shared discussion between the physician and patient.

Review of Medications

4. Orlistat-Lipase Inhibitor Orlistat Xenical was approved in for use for more than 12 weeks, which is considered a long-term use. Orlistat is available in mg capsules. The recommended dose is mg three times daily. A lower dose 60 mg , which is not as effective, is available over-the-counter in some countries, including the United States. Three randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials of orlistat lasting two years have been published. The orlistat group, on average, lost During the crossover portion of the study in the second year, patients who continued with orlistat regained, on average, half as much weight as those patients switched to placebo [28 â€” 30]. Over the remaining years of the trial, both groups regained weight, but overall, the orlistat-treated patients were 6. Almost two-thirds of the subjects completed the first year of treatment. Weight loss at one year varied from 5. Also in diabetic patients orlistat resulted in significantly more weight loss and a decrease in hemoglobin A1c at one year than placebo [32 â€” 34]. In all the studies, the lowest body weight was achieved during the first year. The moderate effect on body weight is sufficient to improve several metabolic parameters. Blood pressure was reduced by 1. A retrospective analysis showed reductions in triglyceride and cholesterol blood levels, improved oral glucose tolerance, and a fall in systolic and diastolic blood pressure [30]. The major side effects of orlistat therapy are gastrointestinal, including intestinal cramps, flatus, fecal incontinence, oily spotting, and flatus with discharge [34]. Levels of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and beta-carotene are reportedly lowered by orlistat therapy, with vitamin D the most frequently affected; therefore it seems prudent to also give a multivitamin supplement when prescribing orlistat [34].

Sibutramine-Sympathomimetic Drug, Formerly Approved for Long-Term Use Sibutramine Meridia, Reductil was first developed as an antidepressant, and although it was ineffective for this, it was found to reduce body weight and appetite. It is a centrally acting noradrenaline and serotonin reuptake inhibitor that enhances weight loss by increasing satiety. It may also have a thermogenic effect in human beings, but this remains controversial. It is given as a 10 mg dose once daily, usually in the morning, and could be increased to 15 mg daily after 4 weeks if needed. It was available from until October We will discuss the side effects that led to its withdrawal, but first we will review its efficacy. More than 10 prospective, randomized, controlled trials of sibutramine lasting 6â€”24 months have supported its efficacy [11]. An analysis of three trials of at least 1-yr duration shows that patients on sibutramine lost 4. The weight loss

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seems to be dose dependent [37], and the extent of initial weight loss in subjects treated with sibutramine predicts the long-term response. In two different weight maintenance trials comparing sibutramine to placebo, more weight loss was seen in the drug-treated patients mean 5. There are benefits to using sibutramine intermittently, as was seen in a randomized, placebo-controlled trial lasting 52 weeks [39]. During the periods when the drug was replaced by placebo, there was a small regain in weight that was again lost when the drug was resumed. At the end of the trial, the continuous-therapy and intermittent-therapy groups had lost the same amount of weight. Another study highlights how much intense lifestyle modification contributes to the success of medical treatment. In a 1-year randomized trial, obese adults received sibutramine alone, sibutramine plus brief individualized lifestyle modification 8â€™10 visits of 10â€™15 min each , group lifestyle modification alone 30 sessions , or sibutramine plus 30 sessions of group lifestyle modification [40]. All subjects were prescribed a calorie-restricted diet of to kcal per day and the same exercise regimen. At one year, subjects in the combined therapy group lost a mean of kg, while those receiving sibutramine alone, lifestyle modification alone, or sibutramine plus brief lifestyle intervention counseling lost kg, kg, and kg, respectively. A number of studies have demonstrated that obese patients with diabetes also seemed to benefit from sibutramine therapy [41 â€™ 44]. As an example, in a six-month trial in patients with diabetes, those treated with sibutramine lost weight and had a decline in hemoglobin A1C values, but no change in blood pressure [42]. In a meta-analysis of eight randomized trials in obese patients with type 2 diabetes, significant decreases were noted in body weight, waist circumference, fasting blood glucose, and HbA1C in the sibutramine group compared to placebo. Other treatment benefits included decreased serum triglycerides and increased HDL concentrations [44]. In all these trials weight loss is associated with improved lipid profiles [41 , 42 , 44]; however, the data for blood pressure has been conflicting. In many trials patients treated with sibutramine had significant, albeit small, changes in blood pressure [45 , 46], on average by 1 to 3 mmHg. This includes patients with hypertension controlled with other agents, such as calcium-channel blockers with or without concomitant thiazide treatment [47]. However, a large surveillance study of patients suggested a significant decrease in blood pressure with sibutramine in obese hypertensive patients [48]. The different trials also show that a small, but significant increase in pulse rate is seen with sibutramine use. In a systematic review of 29 trials, the mean increase in heart rate with sibutramine was 3. None of the antihypertensive drugs, including beta-blockers, appear to prevent the rise in pulse rate with sibutramine. Uncertainties about the cardiovascular safety of sibutramine led to the initiation of the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Sibutramine Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial SCOUTs , which is the longest and largest study with sibutramine [49]. This recently published study enrolled nearly 10, patients who were followed for a mean of 3. The primary endpoint was the time from randomization to the first occurrence of a primary outcome event, which included nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, resuscitation after cardiac arrest, or cardiovascular death. All patients were first in a 6-week lead-in period with sibutramine, in which the mean weight loss was 2. The subjects were then randomized to sibutramine or placebo. The subjects in the sibutramine group then achieved a further weight loss of 1. The mean blood pressure decreased in both groups, with greater reductions in the placebo group than in the sibutramine group mean difference, 1. The rates of cardiovascular death and death from any cause were not increased.

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5: Prucalopride succinate (Resolor) – New Drug Approvals

Comparison of Drug Approval Process in United States & Europe U. Nitin Kashyap, Vishal Gupta, H. V. Raghunandan
Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance Group, Department of Pharmaceutics.*

The secondary efficacy endpoints included ORR, progression-free survival and duration of response for patients with complete or partial responses. Fifty-three patients with previously treated, metastatic EC were evaluated in the EC cohort. Currently, the Phase 2 part is ongoing as an EC cohort expansion. This study is being conducted under an existing strategic collaboration between the two companies. About Endometrial Carcinoma Endometrial cancer begins in the inner lining of the uterus endometrium, and nearly all cancers of the uterus are endometrial carcinomas. In addition to ongoing clinical studies of the combination, the companies will jointly initiate new clinical studies evaluating the combination to support 11 potential indications in six types of cancer bladder cancer, endometrial cancer, head and neck cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer, as well as a basket trial targeting six additional cancer types. The efficacy and safety of this combination has not been established. Additionally, Eisai has obtained approval for the agent in combination with everolimus as a treatment for renal cell carcinoma second-line in over 40 countries, including the United States and in Europe. Eisai has submitted applications for an indication covering hepatocellular carcinoma in the United States and Europe July, China October as well as Taiwan December. As a global pharmaceutical company, our mission extends to patients around the world through our investment and participation in partnership-based initiatives to improve access to medicines in developing and emerging countries. For more information about Eisai Co. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of There can be no guarantees with respect to pipeline products that the products will receive the necessary regulatory approvals or that they will prove to be commercially successful. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Makker V, et al. Biomarker results and preclinical rationale for combination lenvatinib and pembrolizumab in advanced endometrial carcinoma. What Is Endometrial Cancer. Key Statistics for Endometrial Cancer. Endometrial Cancer Survival Rates, by Stage.

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6: Celgene Support for European Patient Organizations - Celgene

The Advances in Cancer Research series provides invaluable information on the exciting and fast-moving field of cancer research. This volume stands as the first ever thematic volume in the series, focusing on the topic of genomics in cancer drug development.

With development has come an epidemiologic transition, making chronic non-communicable diseases the most important cause of mortality in the region. In recent years, pharmaceutical companies have started to offer medications at lower prices outside of North America, Western Europe, and Japan. When adjusted by income, the cost of immune checkpoint inhibitors is higher in Latin America than in the United States. Patient selection by PD-L1 expression, and hopefully by even better biomarkers in the future, should improve cost effectiveness and decrease the budgetary effects of new drugs by limiting or curtailing use in patients who are unlikely to benefit. Access to Care There are also disparities within each Latin American country. In the region, healthcare provision often comes in two varieties: In Brazil, the monthly cost of anti-EGFR TKIs is more than three times the amount hospitals and clinics receive from the government for the treatment of patients with advanced lung cancer. In Panama, gefitinib is available through the National Institute of Oncology healthcare system, which treats some patients from the public health system, but patients in other healthcare systems and those without insurance have no access to EGFR TKIs. Indeed, even molecular testing is done less often than it should be. Little has been published on access to new cancer medications in low- and middle income countries. Regulatory Approval Delays Another barrier to access are delays in regulatory approval compared to the United States. An analysis of a basket of 23 cancer drugs approved after in Brazil showed that it took ANVISA, the local agency, more than 2 years¹³ longer than the U. Food and Drug Administration to approve new medications. Osimertinib obtained approval in Mexico and Brazil in September and December , respectively, approximately 1 year after the United States. Osimertinib was approved in Argentina in June A particularly egregious example, however, was the 5 extra years that it took to bring crizotinib to Brazil. It was only after calculations of life-years lost and mobilization of patient advocacy groups and the public that the drug was finally approved and ANVISA started to accept outcomes other than overall survival in its review process. In Argentina and Mexico, ceritinib has been approved since Figure 2 Hope on the Horizon Although it is an uphill struggle, progress is being made. Latin America has started to reform its healthcare systems to face noncommunicable diseases and cancer. Such reforms include increased training of professionals, expanded cancer registries and national cancer control plans, and the implementation of policies to improve primary prevention especially curtailing tobacco consumption , early diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in general and of lung cancer, in particular. We hope that access to new cancer medications will also become a priority,¹⁴ and that all stakeholders—“including governments, pharmaceutical companies, patients, physician organizations, and the general public” will join forces to face this challenge. Lung cancer in the Americas. Pan American Health Organization website. Accessed January 1, Access to cancer medications in low-and middleincome countries. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. A pan-European comparison regarding patient access to cancer drugs. Accessed July 30, Mailankody S, Prasad V. Five Years of Cancer Drug Approvals. World Bank Group; A global comparison of the cost of patented cancer drugs in relation to global differences in wealth. The World Bank website: Changing Patterns of Molecular Testing in Brazil. Progress and remaining challenges for cancer control in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7: Peptide-Based Treatment: A Promising Cancer Therapy

Remarkable progress has been made in cancer medicine during the last two decades. The number of anticancer agents entering clinical trials has grown exponentially; and patients with diseases such as acute promyelocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple.

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Abstract Many new therapies are currently being used to treat cancer. Among these new methods, chemotherapy based on peptides has been of great interest due to the unique advantages of peptides, such as a low molecular weight, the ability to specifically target tumor cells, and low toxicity in normal tissues. In treating cancer, peptide-based chemotherapy can be mainly divided into three types, peptide-alone therapy, peptide vaccines, and peptide-conjugated nanomaterials. Additionally, the combination of peptides with nanomaterials expands the therapeutic ability of peptides to treat cancer by enhancing drug delivery and sensitivity. In this review, we mainly focus on the new advances in the application of peptides in treating cancer in recent years, including diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.

Introduction Peptides are molecules formed by combinations of amino acids linked by peptide bonds through the dehydration-condensation reaction. Peptides can be obtained conveniently from the products of proteolysis, direct synthesis by the body, or artificial synthesis [1]. Peptides play a large role in the treatment of diseases. Peptide-based therapy has been applied in various diseases, such as allergic diseases, infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, fibrosis, and asthma. There are several advantages of peptides, such as easy availability and convenient purification and storage [2 – 4]. Peptide-based therapies have been tested in both in vitro and in vivo experimental models, and some may present promising outcomes. Additionally, Iikuni et al. Similarly, Nojiri et al. In addition, peptides also play an important role in cancer, including early diagnosis, prognostic predictors, and the treatment of cancer patients. Unlike other therapies, peptides show superiority due to their specificity. Recently, peptide-based therapy against cancer, such as peptide vaccines, has attracted increased attention [7]. Since sipuleucel-T was accepted by the US Food and Drug Administration FDA as the first standard peptide vaccine for prostate tumors, an increasing number of clinical trials have been conducted in many other cancer types, such as melanoma, glioblastoma, breast cancer, and gastric cancer [8]. However, the clinical response is considered limited and most of the current clinical trials showed limited efficacy [9]. Therefore, many novel methods, such as the combination with nanomaterials and chemotherapy, personalized peptide vaccination, and improved delivery systems, have been attempted in clinical trials and some may prolong the survival of cancer patients or result in tumor regression and show enhanced clinical efficacy. In this view, we summarize the new progress of peptides in the application of cancer diagnosis Table 1 , prognostic predictors, and novel peptide therapies for cancer patients. We also discuss the prognosis and adverse effects of peptide vaccines in clinical trials.

Peptides applied in cancer diagnosis. Peptides and Colorectal Cancer Colorectal cancer CRC is one of the most common cancers in the world, and it causes approximately , deaths worldwide per year, according to a recent report. Patients with metastatic CRC have a low 5-year survival rate, and early diagnosis of CRC leads to a better prognosis [19 , 56]. At present, peptides also play an important role in CRC diagnosis. Additionally, Comstock et al. These data suggested that peptides could be used as biomarkers for detecting CRC. Atrial natriuretic peptide ANP , one of the cardiac and vascular derived peptide hormones, was reported to be a potential drug for CRC because it has antiproliferative effects in CRC cells [37]. Neovascularization is essential for tumor growth, and the neovasculature has been an attractive target for anticancer therapy. Interestingly, they also found that TCP-1 could also deliver fluorescein and drugs for imaging detection and apoptosis in CRC, respectively [38]. Their findings suggested that TCP-1 could be a promising peptide for CRC therapy because it could carry anticancer drugs specifically to CRC tissue, without binding to normal tissue. In addition, Wang et al. Interestingly, peptides present in nondigestible fractions

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NDF of the common bean were reported to have an antiproliferative effect via increased p53 expression in a human CRC cell line [50]. In addition, researchers from the same team also found that the peptides in NDF from common beans could cause different gene expression in a human CRC cell line, which was related to cell death and survival, the cell cycle, cell proliferation, and so forth, leading to the induction of apoptosis and cell death. Their reports indicated that the role of peptides from the common bean could be used for anticancer treatment in CRC. Additionally, the vaccine made by combined peptides has been well studied in treating CRC. Recently, Hazama et al. Then, in the following research, Hazama and colleagues found that the interleukin-6 level was increased due to the peptide vaccine, and it could also predict good prognosis in patients who accepted the peptide vaccine [52]. Similarly, Okuno et al. Peptides and Lung Cancer Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality, and the 5-year survival remains low despite new therapies [58 , 59]. The detection of lung cancer in early stages has attracted much attention in recent years. It has been many years since a peptide was first used as a predictor of lung cancer [60]. In recent years, new peptides have also demonstrated their ability in detecting lung cancer. Zhang and colleagues also found that C-peptide in the serum was higher in patients with lung cancer, especially in the small cell lung cancer group, the stage III-IV group, and patients with lung cancer and diabetes [23]. Additionally, McGuire et al. Interestingly, peptides could also be used as carriers, because they have specific binding sites. In addition, Hong et al. Impressively, de Costa et al. Evidence also showed that the peptide HCBP-1 has exhibited specific binding to lung cancer stem cells, suggesting that this peptide may be used to identify lung cancer stem cells and as a drug carrier to lung cancer stem cells [26]. Peptides can also be used to treat lung cancer. Additionally, Kotsakis et al. Recently, Ahsa et al. They also found that Disruptin could inhibit the microvessel density in lung cancer cell line H xenografts [42], indicating that Disruptin could be a potential drug for EGFR positive cancer. Interestingly, peptides from natural sources were also able to treat lung cancer. The peptide fractions from high oleic acid soybean showed an inhibitory effect in cancer cells including colon cancer, liver cancer, and lung cancer , and this effect was dose dependent [54]. With the development of nanotechnology, peptides that are conjugated with nanomaterials have exhibited a great potential in treating diseases, especially cancer. Similarly, Wang et al. It has an extremely poor prognosis due to many factors, including low diagnosis rate, a high rate of metastasis, and the poor efficacy of conventional treatments [64]. Moreover, Jiang et al. In general, the peptides mentioned above may serve as novel diagnostic biomarkers in PC. In recent years, peptide-based vaccines, which elicit a specific anticancer response, have been considered to be a promising treatment option. Tumor-associated antigens TAAs can be recognized by the immune system and thus result in the disturbance of cancer cells or even tumor regression [66]. However, peptide vaccines showed limited clinical efficacy, influenced by the ability of tumor cells to escape recognition by the immune system [66]. Multiple mechanisms might contribute to immune escape such as a loss or downregulation of molecules, including tumor antigens and human leukocyte antigen HLA [67]. To date, some novel potential solutions or modulations have been proposed, such as the modification of TAA peptides, vaccines against multiple TAA epitopes, and the combination of chemotherapy [66]. Recently, the Wilms tumor gene WT1 peptide-based vaccine in combination with gemcitabine was found to be more effective than gemcitabine alone. The median survival and one-year survival rate of the combination therapy were 8. Moreover, CTLs specific for WT1 only act on cells with elevated expression of WT1 but do not damage normal cells, such as hematopoietic cells [68]. Therefore, the WT1 vaccine has no significantly adverse effects on hematopoiesis [68]. Gemcitabine induces cell apoptosis through inhibiting DNA synthesis [69]. The drug has many immune-modulating functions, such as the selective depletion of B lymphocytes, the reinforcement of T-cell recall responses, the reduction of regulatory T-cells, and an increase in the cross-presentation and cross-priming of tumor antigens [70 – 72]. Furthermore, gemcitabine upregulates the expression of WT1 and enhances the sensitivity of pancreatic cancer cells to CTL-mediated killing [64 , 73]. Thus, the combination of the WT1 vaccine with gemcitabine was synergistic [73]. In addition, the WT1 vaccine led to pain relief and alleviated distressing symptoms. The side effects of combination therapy

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resemble those of gemcitabine alone except for topical skin reactions [27]. The combination of chemotherapy with immunotherapy against cancer proved to be effective and synergistic. In addition, Suzuki et al. Moreover, a mixture of a telomerase GV vaccine and gemcitabine was found to be safe, however, with a weak and transient immune response [29].

Peptides and Gastric Cancer In spite of decreased incidence and death rates of gastric cancer worldwide in recent years, gastric cancer still has high incidence rates, especially in Eastern Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America [63]. The incidence of gastric carcinoma has notably decreased due to improved hygiene leading to lower rates of H. Chemotherapy, such as docetaxel, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, and S-1, is the conventional treatment for advanced, recurrent, or unresectable gastric carcinoma and shows poor clinical prognosis [75]. Since the acceptance of Provenge sipuleucel-T as the first cancer vaccine in prostate cancer by the FDA, peptide vaccine therapy was widely attempted in other cancers, such as colorectal, pancreatic, and gastric cancer [8].

Peptides are capable of detecting and diagnosing cancer. Zheng and his colleagues reported that leucine-rich repeat-containing G protein-coupled receptor 5 LGR5 levels were significantly elevated in gastric cancer tissues, thus serving as an early diagnostic biomarker [13]. VEGF is highly expressed in endothelial cells of newly formed tumor vessels and is considered to be a tumor angiogenic and vasculogenic factor [76]. The median overall survival and progression-free survival time were LY6K is overexpressed in the majority of lung and esophageal cancer tissues [80]. Therefore, LY6K might be suitable to repress tumor growth as a targeting peptide in vaccine therapy. The clinical response was effective, with nearly no side effects except for redness and induration at the injection sites [58]. To a great extent, the development of immunotherapy with peptide vaccines depends on the identification of novel vaccine targets, such as tumor-associated antigens [65]. However, few gastric cancer-targeting TAAs have been identified, and TAAs that can induce anticancer responses need to be further investigated.

Peptides and Prostate Cancer Prostate cancer is the first leading cancer type of all newly diagnosed cancers and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men in [63]. The incidence rate has declined but has fluctuated greatly since due to differences in prostate-specific antigen PSA testing prevalence and ethnicity [83]. A variety of chemotherapies have been employed to clinically treat prostate cancer, such as docetaxel and abiraterone [84]. Immunotherapy has been shown to be feasible to cope with chemotherapy-resistant cancer. Sipuleucel-T is the first FDA-approved cancer vaccine for the treatment of castration-resistant prostate cancer patients [85]. Mcgrath and his colleagues validated that EN2, a homeobox-containing transcription factor, was present in human fetuses but absent in healthy adults. However, the overexpression of EN2 in patients with prostate cancer can lead to the diagnosis of prostate tumors [15].

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8: Barriers to Access to New Lung Cancer Drugs in Latin America | IASLC Lung Cancer News

In the United States, the average yearly cost of new drugs for patients with cancer often exceeds \$, 6 which is obviously unaffordable in lower-income countries. In recent years, pharmaceutical companies have started to offer medications at lower prices outside of North America, Western Europe, and Japan.

Currently, Eisai has obtained approval for Lenvima as a treatment for refractory thyroid cancer in over 40 countries including the United States, Japan, in Europe, Korea and Canada, and the agent is undergoing regulatory review throughout the world including in Asia, Russia, Australia, Brazil and Mexico. In May , Lenvima was also approved for an additional indication in the United States in combination with everolimus for the treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma following one prior anti-angiogenic therapy. A new drug application seeking approval for an indication covering advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma submitted in Europe in January is under review, and Eisai intends to discuss further steps regarding submission strategies for this potential indication with the regulatory authorities in Japan. Afinitor is not indicated for the treatment of patients with functional carcinoid tumors in the United States. Afinitor is now approved by the U. Food and Drug Administration FDA for the treatment of adult patients with progressive, well-differentiated, nonfunctional NET of gastrointestinal GI or lung origin that are unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic. It is also approved in more than countries including the United States and European Union for advanced renal cell carcinoma following progression on or after vascular endothelial growth factor VEGF -targeted therapy in the United States, specifically following sunitinib and sorafenib. Indications vary by country and not all indications are available in every country. The safety and efficacy profile of everolimus has not yet been established outside the approved indications. Because of the uncertainty of clinical trials, there is no guarantee that everolimus will become commercially available for additional indications anywhere else in the world. Patients taking concomitant angiotensin-converting enzyme ACE inhibitors may be at an increased risk for angioedema. Mouth ulcers and mouth sores are common side effects. Cases of hepatitis B reactivation, blood clots in the lung or legs, and pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia PJP have been reported. Abnormalities were observed in hematology and clinical chemistry laboratory tests. About Study The U. Study was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study of the combination of Lenvima 18 mg plus everolimus 5 mg , Lenvima alone 24 mg , and everolimus alone 10 mg in patients with unresectable advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma following one prior VEGF-targeted therapy, and was conducted in Europe and the United States. Additionally, median PFS for the Lenvima alone group was 7. Regarding ORR, both the Lenvima plus everolimus group and the Lenvima alone group showed an improvement in ORR compared to the everolimus alone group Lenvima plus everolimus: Furthermore, regarding OS, an updated analysis carried out in December suggested that Lenvima plus everolimus extends OS compared to everolimus alone HR 0. The most common treatment-emergent adverse events TEAEs reported in the lenvatinib plus everolimus group were diarrhea, decreased appetite and fatigue. About Renal Cell Carcinoma The number of patients with renal cancer was estimated to be approximately , worldwide, including approximately 58, in the United States, , in Europe and 17, in Japan. The incidence of renal cell carcinoma in people aged in their late 50s is rising, and is more likely to affect men than women. For advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma that is difficult to treat with surgery, the standard treatment method is molecular targeted drug therapy, however with low 5-year survival rates, this is a disease with significant unmet medical need. World Health Organization Classification of Tumours, 3rd ed.

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