THE TOOLS

| FROM THE INTERNET |

Nutrition

Many organizations publish nutrition information for patients with cancer or for those interested in cancer prevention, as well as information for health professionals.

- American Cancer Society (ACS) *www.cancer.org*
Publications relating to oncology nutrition include: *Nutrition for the Person with Cancer* (available free of charge), *CA - A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (a bimonthly publication available free of charge for health professionals), and *ACS's Guide to Complementary and Alternative Methods, Healthy Eating Cookbook*.

- American Dietetic Association (ADA) *www.eatright.org*
The Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group and the ADA have published the *Oncology Nutrition Patient Education Materials, The Clinical Guide to Oncology Nutrition,* and *The Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment Video.*

- American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) *www.aicr.org*
The AICR has a wide range of booklets and brochures on diet, nutrition and the prevention of cancer.

- National Cancer Institute (NCI) *www.nci.nih.gov*
NCI has many nutrition publications available free of charge for cancer patients and consumers, such as *Eating Hints for Cancer Patients Before, During and After Cancer Treatments,* as well as information on cancer prevention.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EYEWIRE

| DRUGS |

News on Cancer Drugs

- The U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) recently accepted the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia as off-label uses for rituximab (Rituxan). The USP also accepted zoledronic acid (Zometa) for the treatment of osteolytic bone metastases and darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp) for the treatment of chemotherapy-associated anemia.

- Genentech Inc. has received FDA approval for the inclusion of survival data in the labeling of its breast cancer treatment Herceptin. The new labeling references the 24 percent increase in median overall survival for women with HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer treated initially with Herceptin and chemotherapy compared to chemotherapy alone (median 25.1 months compared to 20.3 months).

- Bigmar, Inc. has received FDA approval for the marketing of two additional dosages of methotrexate (500 mg and 1,000 mg in a preservative-free solution).

- Barr Laboratories Inc. has received FDA approval for flutamide capsules 125 mg, the generic equivalent of Schering Corp's Eulexin capsules. The approval of the company's product follows the expiration of a patent granted to Schering Corp. for Eulexin

| NEW PRODUCTS |

- The isosleeve needle delivery system (Imagyn Medical Technologies Inc., Irvine, Calif.) received 510(k) clearance from the FDA. The product is a sterilized, custom pre-loaded needle delivery system for prostate brachytherapy. The isosleeve needle delivery system contains a digital record with each order showing the loading pattern of each isosleeve. In addition, the sleeve itself can easily be removed and reinserted for a visual check, a feature new to the brachytherapy field.

- A new combination PET/CT medical imaging system (CPS, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.) with LSO detection technology has received 510(k) clearance from the FDA. The system

reduces patient testing time to under 20 minutes. The LSO-based PET/CT system is expected to provide unprecedented fusion of the metabolic information provided by PET and anatomical images provided by CT. This will help clinicians interpret how chemotherapy drugs affect specific metabolic activities at precise locations in the body. According to the manufacturers, the new system significantly improves patient comfort and convenience.

■ The palladium-103 brachytherapy implant (Draximage Inc., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada) was approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to treat prostate cancer and other selected localized tumors. NRC approval is the final step needed for marketing the BrachySeed PD-103 implant. The company received FDA clearance to market its brachytherapy treatment last June. Draximage's BrachySeed PD-103 seeds decay at three times the rate of Iodine-125, offering a higher initial dose rate to the tumor, and are primarily used with more aggressive tumors.

■ The EmboCath™ Hydrophilic Infusion Catheter (BioSphere Medical, Inc., Rockland, Mass.) has received FDA clearance. The product offers physicians a more targeted and controlled method for delivery of embolic material compared to standard angiographic catheters, as well as a cost-effective alternative to the currently available high-end microcatheters, commonly used in embolotherapy procedures.

■ AUTO-CRANE™ (NOMOS Corp., Sewickly, Pa.) is a new patient positioning system that has received FDA 510(k) clearance for marketing. An accessory to powered radiation therapy treatment support, AUTO-CRANE verifies and describes setup of the treatment couch/patient during a radiation therapy treatment, and represents an enhancement to the manually operated NOMOS CRANE II. All table indexing operations can be performed remotely via a user interface located at the linear accelerator control station. The system also continuously monitors the couch position and will interrupt treatment if the couch position changes.

■ The SHPI Liftloc Safety Infusion Set (Specialized Health Products International, Inc., Bountiful, Utah) is a new safety Huber needle infusion set. It has received 510(k) clearance from the FDA. The product has a protective mechanism that covers the needle tip with a sheath during removal to help protect the health care practitioner from an accidental needlestick. The product, which is designed for IV fluids and drug infusions, also incorporates a patient comfort pad.

■ RF gel Electrosurgical Probes & Devices (Prosurg, Inc., Silicon Valley, Calif.) received FDA marketing clearance for the microinvasive, endoscopic treatment of controlled tissue ablation. The RF gel technology represents significant potential for an image-guided and controlled tissue ablation treatment for urological, gynecological, and general surgical disorders. Three-dimensional, interactive RF gel electrodes of any shape and size can be created under "real-time" image guidance and achieve desired tissue ablation zones by controlling the injection volume of the conductive RF gel. For additional information, visit *www.prosurg.com*.

FAST FACTS

Estimated New Cancer Cases by Gender in the United States, 2002

	Both Sexes	Male	Female
All Sites	1,284,900	637,500	647,400
Oral	28,900	18,900	10,000
Digestive	250,600	130,300	120,300
Respiratory	183,200	100,700	82,500
Bones/Joints	2,400	1,300	1,100
Soft Tissue	8,300	4,400	3,900
Skin*	58,300	32,500	25,800
Breast	205,000	1,500	203,500
Genital	279,100	197,700	81,400
Urinary	90,700	62,200	28,500
Eye	2,200	1,100	1,100
Brain	17,000	9,600	7,400
Endocrine	22,700	6,000	16,700
Lymphoma	60,900	31,900	29,000
Multiple Myeloma	14,600	7,800	6,800
Leukemia	30,800	17,600	13,200
Other	30,200	14,000	16,200

*Excluding basal and squamous cell skin cancers

Source: *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, January/February 2002;52(1):25.

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