

TOOLS

THE

| NEW DEVICES |

■ **NMP22 BladderChek™** (Matritech Inc., Newton, Mass.), a point-of-care test for bladder cancer, has received marketing clearance from the FDA. The product detects the presence of NMP22, a nuclear matrix protein correlated with bladder cancer. Clinical trial results reviewed by the FDA show NMP22 BladderChek, which looks and works like a home pregnancy test, detected four times more early-stage bladder tumors and 2.5 times as many life-threatening, high-grade tumors as cytology alone.

| NEW PRODUCTS |

■ **The Health Enterprise Navigator® System** (NaviCare Systems Inc., St. Paul, Minn.) is a suite of Windows®-based applications designed to collect and display critical path information on a real-time basis both within departments and enterprise-wide. Health Enterprise Navigator interfaces with existing departmental systems to provide quantitative, qualitative, and strategic benefits. The system reflects what is actually happening in a department or unit; is simple, user-friendly, effective; and does not require data entry or keyboarding.

For more information about the Health Enterprise Navigator system, contact NaviCare Systems Inc., at 877-NAVICARE or visit its web site at: www.navicare.com.

| NOTIFICATION |

■ **Kawasumi Gravity IV Sets** (Kawasumi Laboratories America, Inc., Tampa, Fla.) The FDA has issued a public health notification on the potential risk of DEHP, the plasticizer for most PVC medical devices. Since studies have shown that DEHP, a known carcinogen, has adverse effects on the male reproductive system and production of normal sperm

| NEW DRUGS |

■ The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved **Eloxatin™** (oxaliplatin) injection for use in combination with infusional 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and leucovorin (LV) for the treatment of patients with colorectal cancer whose disease has recurred or progressed following bolus 5-FU/LV plus irinotecan therapy. The drug received approval following a 46-day priority review. Sanofi-Synthelabo will distribute Eloxatin.

■ The FDA has approved a supplemental New Drug Application for **ARIMIDEX®** (anastrozole) for the adjuvant treatment of hormone-receptor positive early breast cancer in postmenopausal women. The effectiveness of ARIMIDEX in the adjuvant setting was based on analysis of data at a median duration of treatment of 31 months. Further follow-up will be required to determine long-term outcome.

■ Atrix Laboratories, Inc., has received FDA clearance for **Eligard™ 22.5 mg** (leuprolide acetate for injectable suspension), three-month sustained released product for the palliative treatment of advanced prostate cancer. Earlier this year, the FDA approved **Eligard 7.5 mg**, a once-a-month sustained release product.

■ Amgen has FDA approval for **Aranesp™** (darbopoietin alfa) for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced anemia in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies. Aranesp was approved by the FDA in September 2001 for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic renal failure for patients both on and not on dialysis.

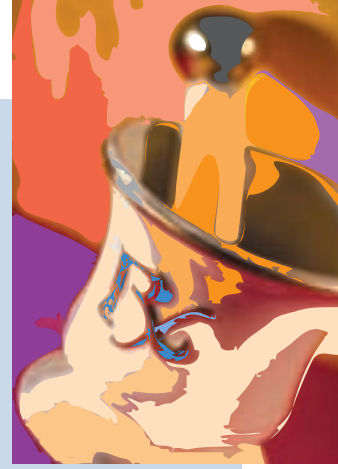
■ Baxter Healthcare Corporation is launching an oral formulation of **Mesnex (mesna) Tablets** as a prophylactic agent to reduce the incidence of ifosfamide-induced hemorrhagic cystitis.

■ Sanofi-Synthelabo has received FDA clearance for **Elitek™** (rasburicase). Elitek is indicated for the initial management of plasma uric acid levels in pediatric patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and solid tumor malignancies who are receiving anti-cancer therapy expected to result in tumor lysis and subsequent elevation of plasma uric acid.

■ Hoffman La Roche, Inc., has FDA approval for its antiemetic, **Kytril® Injection** (granisetron hydrochloride) for both the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV). Kytril is given just before or during surgery to prevent PONV from occurring, and is also given to patients who experience PONV after surgery is completed.

■ **Gelclair™**, a prescription bioadherent oral gel, received FDA clearance in December 2001 as a medical device for the management and relief of oral pain from various causes, including oral mucositis and irritation from oral surgery. Gelclair adheres to the mucosal surface of the mouth where it creates a protective film barrier. John O. Butler Company will market Gelclair for Cell Pathways, Inc.

■ **Avinza™** was approved by the FDA in March 2002 for the treatment of moderate to severe chronic pain in patients that require continuous, around-the-clock therapy for an extended period of time. A once-daily dose of Avinza in the extended release capsule formulation provides relief from pain for a 24-hour period. Avinza is available in 30, 60, 90, and 120 mg capsules. The drug was developed by Elan Corporation and will be marketed in the U.S. and Canada by Ligand Pharmaceuticals. ☐



BASED ON PHOTOGRAPH BY COMSTOCK

in young animals, the FDA has advised that precautions be taken to limit the exposure of the human male fetus, male neonate, and peripubertal male to DEHP. Kawasumi Gravity IV Sets are non-DEHP throughout the entire IV fluid path, including tubing and the drip chamber. The Gravity IV sets are available in a wide selection of configurations for many cancer and non-cancer applications (based on the type of solution container, the need to inject drugs during



Kawasumi Gravity IV Sets

the infusion, blood sampling requirements, etc.).

The FDA lists IV bags and tubing, blood bags and infusion tubing, and enteral nutrition feeding bags, among others, as devices that may contain DEHP-plasticized PVC. To read the entire notification, visit: www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/dehp.html.

ON THE INTERNET

Handheld devices are growing in popularity because they are more convenient and flexible than physically larger laptops or notebooks.



■ www.mdeverywhere.com

MDeverywhere provides real-time, mobile physician charge capture for medical group practices. The company's software program allows physicians to record patient and billing information on handheld computers. The company now offers physicians a broad array of complementary online services, including dictation to back up each charge, prescription and lab order services, and greater access to clinical information. The company also offers a web-enabled system that will operate on a PC.

■ www.handheldmed.com

Founded by physicians and medical students, Handheldmed provides users with patient tracking applications combined with a comprehensive library of electronic medical content, accessible at the point of care. The company's *MobilePractice* equips health care professionals with a bundled suite of mobile applications and content, including *Patient Tracker*, the *Merck Manual*, and access to hundreds of mobile channels.

■ www.ephysician.com

ePhysician Practice is a suite of software products that enables physicians to prescribe medications, access a wide variety of drug reference information, schedule patients, view formulary information, review critical patient information, and capture charges at the point of care, through the use of a Palm OS[®]-based handheld device and the Internet. *ePhysician Practice* enables physicians to securely access and send information to pharmacies, billing services, practice management systems, and others through the convenience of a PDA. 📱

FAST FACTS

A Snapshot of Median Health Care Salaries Across the United States (as of August 2002)

	Oncologists/ Hematologists	Radiologists	Pharmacists	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Radiation Technicians	Medical Records Technicians
National Median	\$161,908	\$193,224	\$67,320	\$60,632	\$39,344	\$31,511
ALASKA, Anchorage	\$194,614	\$232,255	\$80,918	\$72,880	\$47,292	\$37,877
ARIZONA, Phoenix	\$158,994	\$189,746	\$66,108	\$59,541	\$38,636	\$30,944
CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles	\$180,852	\$215,831	\$75,196	\$67,726	\$43,948	\$35,198
FLORIDA, Miami	\$158,994	\$189,746	\$66,108	\$59,541	\$38,636	\$30,944
HAWAII, Honolulu	\$183,118	\$218,536	\$76,138	\$68,575	\$44,499	\$35,639
ILLINOIS, Chicago	\$175,994	\$210,035	\$73,176	\$65,907	\$42,767	\$34,253
LOUISIANA, New Orleans	\$156,080	\$186,268	\$64,896	\$58,450	\$37,928	\$30,377
MAINE, Portland	\$155,594	\$185,688	\$64,694	\$58,268	\$37,810	\$30,282
MINNESOTA, Minneapolis	\$169,518	\$202,306	\$70,484	\$63,482	\$41,194	\$32,992
MONTANA, Billings	\$149,118	\$177,959	\$62,001	\$55,842	\$36,236	\$29,022
NEBRASKA, Omaha	\$153,975	\$183,756	\$64,021	\$57,661	\$37,417	\$29,867
PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia	\$171,461	\$204,624	\$71,291	\$64,210	\$41,666	\$33,371
TENNESSEE, Memphis	\$160,289	\$191,292	\$66,646	\$60,026	\$38,951	\$31,196
TEXAS, Dallas	\$165,470	\$197,475	\$68,801	\$61,966	\$40,210	\$32,205
WASHINGTON, Seattle	\$172,271	\$205,590	\$71,628	\$64,513	\$41,862	\$33,528

Source: www.Salary.com, a provider of web-based human capital management products.