

## NEW PRODUCTS

■ **CA19-9™ Radio-immunoassay (RIA)** (Fujirebio Diagnostics, Malvern, Pa.) is the first blood test cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in pancreatic cancer. CA 19-9 is an in-vitro tumor marker that is already available in many countries.

■ **LORAD Digital Breast Imager** (Hologic, Inc., Bedford, Mass.) has received FDA approval for its LORAD full-field digital mammography system. The LDBI utilizes CCD-based technology to generate digital mammographic images that can be used for the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. The LDBI is intended for use in the same clinical applications as traditional screen-film mammographic systems.

■ **The Dfiner** (NEOSeed Technology, LLC, San Francisco, Calif.) has been cleared by the FDA. The Dfiner is a urethral imaging catheter with a Nitinol “umbrella” designed to wrap around the bladder neck and identify the position of the prostate in relation to the bladder. The proprietary design enables the device to be viewed under both fluoroscopy and ultrasound. Increased visualization of the prostate and prostatic urethra can help decrease the number of improperly placed brachytherapy seeds.



The Dfiner

## DRUGS

### Making News

■ The U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) recently accepted a new off-label indication for **amifostine**: the treatment for reduction of the incidence of mucositis in patients receiving radiation therapy or radiation combined with chemotherapy.

■ American Pharmaceutical Partners has begun marketing and selling **pamidronate disodium injection** in 30 mg and 90 mg strength single-dose 10 ml vials. The FDA approved the abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for this product in May. Pamidronate disodium is a bone-resorption inhibitor used to treat hypercalcemia associated with malignancy, with or without bone metastases, and Paget's dis-



ease, and is the generic equivalent of Novartis Pharmaceuticals' **Aredia®**.

The company anticipates selling a lyophilized version of pamidronate later this year.

■ Sanofi-Synthelabo Inc., has started marketing **Eligard™** 7.5 mg (leuprolide acetate for injectable suspension), hormone therapy for the palliative treatment of advanced prostate cancer. Eligard 7.5 mg suppresses testosterone to traditional castrate levels and also meets the stringent guidelines of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Eligard 7.5 mg uses the **ATRIGEL®**

drug delivery system to provide a continuous release of leuprolide acetate over a one-month treatment period.

The FDA gave approval to Eligard 7.5 mg earlier this year. ☐

■ **Version 4.0 for Second Look™ computer-aided detection system for mammography** (CADx Medical Systems Inc., Laval, Quebec, Canada) has been approved by the FDA.

Second Look is the first FDA-approved second-generation CAD system with the ability to export digitized images and CAD results to a picture archive computer system (PACS). By using a DICOM standard interface, users are able to store results, which can be viewed on a soft-copy workstation. The storage of images and CAD results will allow an easy transition to be made from traditional analog technology to digital mammography.

*continued on page 16*

**Second Look™ computer-aided detection system**





■ **The MiniTome™ Breast Biopsy System** (Artemis Medical, Inc., Hayward, Calif.) has received clearance from the FDA. The MiniTome system is capable of localizing and immobilizing target breast tissue more precisely than current techniques, and accurately cutting and removing a large, architecturally intact sample through a minimally invasive incision. An intact sample provides a more definitive diagnosis. 📷



The MiniTome™ Breast Biopsy System

<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>

This web site offers almost 1,000 free, online journals sorted by specialty, title, and by the date when the journals become “free,” which usually ranges from 6 to 12 months after publication. More than 20 oncology journals are listed on the web site, including three Spanish journals. Visitors who want to stay informed about new free journals can subscribe to the web site’s “Journal Alert.” The AmedoGroup, which sponsors the site, believes that access to free scientific knowledge will have a major impact on medical practice and attract Internet visitors to these journals.

<http://www.medbioworld.com>

Medbioworld is a comprehensive medical reference site that offers links to more than 5,500 medical journals in 80 subspecialties and 3,500 medical associations. Other research tools include medical glossaries, disease databases, clinical trials and guidelines, and regulation and licensing information. The web site offers information about continuing education units, such as a link to the American Medical Association’s CME locator.

<http://www.TMATech.com>

TMA Technology provides information and services on important topics in the field of radiation oncology. TMA helps radiation oncology departments set up and maintain timely, up-to-date quality assurance programs, policies, procedures, and documentation that are critical for meeting regulatory requirements and reimbursement criteria. The goal is simple: to reduce the amount of time managers spend tracking down important forms and documents, and help managers assimilate new technologies into their departments. 📷

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EYEWIRE

## FAST FACTS

### Total Medicare Payments for Selected Sole Source Oncology and Supportive Care Drugs

HCPCS	Description	Total Provider Payment*	AWP**
J8520	Capecitabine, oral 150 mg	\$2.00	\$3.10
J8600	Melphalan, oral 2 mg	\$1.88	\$2.50
J8700	Temozolomide 5 mg	\$4.97	\$6.89
J9045	Carboplatin inj 50 mg	\$93.78	\$130.11
J9050	Carmustine inj 100 mg	\$96.54	\$133.96
J9170	Docetaxel 20 mg	\$244.01	\$329.18
J9185	Fludarabine phosphate inj 50 mg	\$222.68	\$327.50
J9201	Gemcitabine hcl 200 mg	\$87.44	\$117.95
J9202	Goserelin acetate implant per 3.6 mg	\$365.79	\$469.99
J9208	Ifosfomide inj 1 gm	\$128.31	\$169.84
J9211	Idarubicin hcl inj 5 mg	\$337.70	\$491.15
J9245	Melphalan inj 50 mg	\$328.31	\$438.70
J9266	Pegaspargase single-dose vial	\$1,017.68	\$1,391.21
J9268	Pentostatin inj 10 mg	\$1,355.13	\$1,741.20
J9310	Rituximab 100 mg	\$372.38	\$500.00
J9320	Streptozocin inj 1 g	\$95.28	\$126.81
J9350	Topotecan 4 mg	\$544.12	\$731.59
J9357	Valrubicin intravesical 200 mg	\$346.73	\$554.40
J9390	Vinorelbine tartrate/10 mg	\$72.78	\$104.51
J9600	Porfimer sodium 75 mg	\$2,133.05	\$2,740.70

\* Assumes 100 percent co-payment collection

\*\* Average Wholesale Prices are from June 2002 Redbook Update