



PHOTOGRAPH/CORBIS

## [DRUGS IN THE NEWS]

■ EntreMed (Rockville, Md.) announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted orphan drug designation for **2-methoxyestradiol (2ME2 or Panzem®)** for the treatment of ovarian cancer. The FDA's decision was based on a review of data from preclinical experiments and a Phase I clinical study, together with in vitro data demonstrating that 2ME2 has activity against a variety of ovarian carcinoma cell lines including those resistant to other chemotherapeutic agents. EntreMed received orphan drug designation previously for 2ME2 in the treatment of multiple myeloma.

■ The USP DI has approved **Doxil (doxorubicin liposomal)** for multiple myeloma, in combination with vincristine and dexamethasone.

■ Lorus Therapeutics, Inc., (Toronto, Canada), announced that

the FDA has granted orphan drug status to **GTI-2040**, for the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The drug was also granted orphan drug status for renal cell carcinoma in 2004. GTI-2040 is an anti-sense drug that specifically targets the R2 component of ribonucleotide reductase, which is required for DNA synthesis and cell proliferation. GTI-2040 is being investigated in a Phase II clinical trials program for AML, breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, color cancer, and a variety of solid tumors.

■ Structural GenomiX, Inc. (San Diego, Calif.), has also received orphan drug designation from the FDA for **Troxatyl™ (troxacitabine)** for the treatment of AML. Troxatyl is a novel nucleoside analog that is currently being evaluated in a Phase I/II trial for the treatment of relapsed AML and in a Phase I/II trial for the treatment of various solid tumors.

■ The FDA has granted PharmaMar's (Madrid, Spain) **Yondelis® (trabectedin)** orphan drug designation for the treatment of ovarian cancer. Yondelis originally was isolated from the marine tunicate Ecteinascidia turbinata, but now is manufactured by chemical synthesis. Yondelis is being developed by PharmaMar in partnership with Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development. The drug is currently in Phase II studies in soft tissue sarcoma (comparative pivotal trial) and for prostate cancer. 📄

## Fast Facts

### Consumer Attitudes Toward Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Question	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	Not Sure
The use of EMRs can significantly decrease the frequency of medical errors.	21%	41%	20%	6%	12%
The use of EMRs can significantly reduce healthcare costs.	32%	41%	10%	4%	12%
The use of EMRs makes it more difficult to ensure patients' privacy.	27%	40%	19%	6%	12%
The use of EMRs can improve the quality of care patients receive by reducing the number of redundant or unnecessary tests and procedures they receive.	34%	42%	9%	5%	12%

Source: The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-care Poll. Volume 4, Issue 4, March 2005.