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POTENTIAL PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS DISCOVERED BY RESEARCHERS AT CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

Raloxifene, Drug Used For Osteoporosis, Shown To Potentially Benefit Prostate Cancer Patients

LOS ANGELES (March 20, 2006) – In a study to be published in the April, 2006 issue of the British Journal of Urology International, researchers at the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center at the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center have shown that Raloxifene, a drug commonly used to treat osteoporosis, has a potential clinical benefit in treating men with prostate cancer. This study has implications for the approximately 35,000 men who will die this year of advanced prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death among men living in the United States. Approximately one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. “We undertook this study because we desperately need new therapies for patients with advanced prostate cancer,” said David B. Agus, M.D., research director of the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center at Cedars-Sinai and principal investigator of the study.

Since Raloxifene is a drug already on the market, researchers were able to move directly into a Phase II clinical trial. They identified the presence of the beta isoform of the estrogen receptor in prostate cancer tissue samples, then moved directly into studies of animals with human prostate cancer, and then onto human clinical trials. The entire process took only 2-3 years.

“It used to be that to show effectiveness through research studies, cancer drugs needed to shrink tumors by 50 percent,” Agus said. “Now, the new way of thinking about the effectiveness of cancer drugs is whether they can slow cancer’s growth, which ultimately may significantly benefit patients.”

Through the study, patients were given a daily oral dosage of Raloxifene, and the disease and its symptoms were followed on a regular basis. Some of the patients in the clinical trial taking Raloxifene showed evidence of disease stabilization manifested by a slowing or stopping of the growth of their prostate cancer.

According to Ronald L. Shazer, M.D., primary author of the manuscript, “The outcome from the Phase II clinical trial merits further study in a randomized clinical trial to demonstrate the clinical benefit of this targeted therapy.”

The study, *Raloxifene, and ER – [beta] Targeted Therapy, Inhibits Androgen Independent Prostate Cancer Growth Results from Preclinical Studies and a Pilot Phase II Clinical Trial*, was funded by the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Elle and Paul Stephens Family Foundation.

For more information about the work of the physicians and researchers at the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center at the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars-Sinai, please visit: <http://www.csmc.edu/899.html>.

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The first of eight hospitals in California whose nurses have been honored with the prestigious Magnet designation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest nonprofit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For 18 consecutive years, it has been named Los Angeles' most preferred hospital for all health needs in an independent survey of area residents. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities and was recently fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Additional information is available at www.cedars-sinai.edu.

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