

(2.8 percent vs. 1.3 percent). Severe adverse events in more than 5 percent of patients were, for FAC, nausea (9 percent), vomiting (7 percent), and fatigue/asthenia (5 percent), and, for TAC, fatigue/asthenia (11 percent), and stomatitis, or mouth sores (7 percent). BCIRG 001 is the first of many studies being conducted by BCIRG (Breast Cancer International Research Group). The rapid completion of the study, and the availability of today's result, demonstrates the effectiveness of this academic global cooperative research group.

"These early results are important for two reasons," said Dr. Nabholz. "They represent a new, and possibly very large, advance in the choice of chemotherapy for many women, but they also may indicate a very good regimen for future combination with new therapies coming from biological research."

ABOUT BREAST CANCER

Breast cancer is an abnormal cell growth originating in breast tissue. If not diagnosed and treated early, these cells can invade surrounding tissue and spread through the blood and lymph node system. An estimated 203,500 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and an estimated 40,000 women will die from the disease. Worldwide, almost one million women will be diagnosed with this disease each year. In the United States and Europe, it is the most common cancer among women, excluding skin cancer, and the second leading cause of cancer death among women.

ABOUT BCIRG

BCIRG is an academic global cooperative intergroup of oncology researchers dedicated to the global strategic development of promising

new therapies for women with breast cancer. The goal of BCIRG is to identify and select the best compounds in their class (chemotherapy, hormone therapy, biologic modifiers and gene therapy) and to create global pivotal strategies of development in order to test these new treatments and bring them to patients in a timely manner. Academic rigor, speed, quality of processes and worldwide patient access are achieved through the interaction of the most advanced academic institutions in the world and a large global network of clinical investigators. BCIRG is a division of Cancer International Research Group, a not-for-profit organization.

The study was sponsored by Aventis. Aventis manufactures docetaxel under the trade name Taxotere®.

NEUMEGA® Contract Reminder

Oncology Associates reminds you of its contract with Wyeth/Genetics Institute. The contract provides discounted pricing for the product Neumega in 5mg Vial and 5mg Vial 7/bx quantities.

Wyeth/Genetics Institute offers a reimbursement/medical affairs hotline: 888-638-6342 for assistance in regard to your questions about billing for Neumega.

ABOUT NEUMEGA®

Neumega® (Oprelvekin) is a platelet growth factor that can help prevent extremely low platelet counts caused by chemotherapy. Treatment with Neumega may help reduce the need for platelet transfusion and may help cancer patients avoid changes in their overall chemotherapy plan.

Neumega is indicated for the prevention of severe thrombocytopenia and the reduction of the need for platelet transfusions following myelosuppressive chemotherapy in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies

who are at high risk of severe thrombocytopenia. Efficacy was demonstrated in patients who had experienced severe thrombocytopenia following the previous chemotherapy cycle. Neumega is not indicated following myeloablative chemotherapy.

In randomized studies, most adverse events associated with Neumega were mild or moderate in severity, associated with fluid retention, and reversible after discontinuation of dosing. The most common adverse events associated with Neumega included peripheral edema, dyspnea, tachycardia, and conjunctival redness. Neumega should be used with caution in patients with congestive heart failure (CHF), at risk of developing CHF, or with a history of heart failure.

NEUMEGA
(Oprelvekin)

WYETH/GENETICS'

NEUMEGA

HOTLINE:

888-638-6342