



## The Use of Low Molecular Weight Heparins in Cancer Patients

At the recent Oncology Associates meeting in Las Vegas, Dr. Bruce Baranski discussed the use of Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH) in cancer patients. Dr. Baranski discussed the data demonstrating that many cancers activate the clotting system, which gives the cancers a growth advantage in some cases and expedites metastases to distant sites in others.

He reviewed the data demonstrating that thrombosis is common in cancer patients. The thrombosis may manifest as venous or arterial clots. Deep venous thrombosis and catheter-related thrombosis are very common. Data was presented from recent trials demonstrating that treatment of thrombosis in cancer patients may often have to be longer than in non-cancer patients. He also discussed data showing

that aggressive prevention of clots in cancer patient should be considered, including longer treatment with anticoagulants than used in non-cancer patients.

Next, data was presented that links the presence of thrombosis with cancer outcome. Some studies have demonstrated that the prognosis of patients with thrombosis is poor. Treatment with LMWH leads to a survival advantage in patients with some cancers. The possible mechanisms of this were discussed, including the idea that LMWH treatment inhibits angiogenesis (new blood vessel growth into the tumor).



**Dining at the Venetian for the Saturday night group dinner was the true Las Vegas experience.**



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