



Advancements in Multiple Myeloma

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Multiple myeloma is diagnosed in approximately 15,000 new patients in the United States each year and has a prevalence of approximately 50,000. Today, in 2005 it remains an incurable disease despite high-dose chemotherapy. There are multiple chemotherapeutic combinations that have been shown to be effective for multiple myeloma both as upfront therapy or second line therapy. These chemotherapeutic regimens include melphalan-prednisone, vincristine-doxorubicin and oral

dexamethasone, thalidomide-dexamethasone, and high-dose dexamethasone.

New Agents for Multiple Myeloma

There are now newer single agents that have been shown to be highly effective in multiple myeloma. These include bortezomib (also known as Velcade) and arsenic trioxide. In addition, the use of lenalidomide (also known as Revlimid), a more potent thalidomide analog also appears to be

promising in the treatment of this disease.

Future Treatment

In the future the ideal treatment of multiple myeloma will ultimately consist of combinations of these newer agents, resulting in a change in the natural history of the disease. Optimistically, this will result in higher, complete remission responses, longer overall survival, or possible cure of this disease without compromising the quality and longevity of the patient's life. **OA**

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Brought to you by Ortho Biotech, The Strength 4 Your Journey website serves as an innovative resource that supports newly diagnosed cancer patients and their families and friends.

This program has been designed to guide patients through this difficult time. Each week, patients can receive an informative, easy-to-read newsletter by email. The topics of each newsletter will follow the course of your treatment, so the information will be timely and will answer your most pressing questions and concerns.

Other features of the website include information on the basics of cancer, treatment, taking control and information for caregivers.