



Study Reveals That Use of Selenium Does Not Prevent Skin Cancers

Although considered a promising front-runner in the chemoprevention of some cancers, selenium—a trace mineral in the human body that is essential for the normal functioning of the immune system—appears to have no benefit in preventing skin cancer and may, in some cases, accelerate the develop-



ment of certain skin cancers in high-risk individuals.

Researchers conducted a clinical trial of selenium as part of the Nutritional Prevention of Cancer Study Trial, and the results were published in the October 1

issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. According to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY, where two of the researchers work, the clinical trial was designed to test whether selenium could prevent nonmelanoma skin cancer. The trial studied 1,312 people from the eastern United States who had a history of two or more basal cell carcinomas or one or more squamous cell car-

cinomas. The findings showed no benefit from selenium when taken as a dietary supplement, and selenium appeared to increase the risk of squamous cell carcinoma by 25% and total nonmelanoma skin cancer by 17% among those with a history of skin cancer.

After several years of follow-up, the researchers expanded the original skin cancer trial to assess selenium's role in preventing other cancers in the same group of patients. Analysis of the data revealed that the mineral decreased the incidence of several types of cancers: prostate cancer by 52%, lung cancer by 26%, and colorectal cancer by 54%. Total cancer incidence was decreased by 25%, and total cancer mortality was lowered by 41%.

New Biopsy Tool Aids in Detection of Breast Tumors

With the use of new magnetic resonance imaging- (MRI-) guided breast biopsy, breast abnormalities that were difficult to see now can be found and biopsied in a fast, safe, and easy way without taking women to surgery for what often is a noncancerous diagnosis, says Suros Surgical Systems, Inc., in Indianapolis, IN, manufacturer of the ATEC™ breast biopsy system. Since May 2003, more than 30 cancer centers across the country have started using the ATEC device, a vacuum-assisted breast biopsy system that can be used in the same room as the MRI magnet. Biopsies using ATEC take an average of 30–40 minutes to perform, so the new technology is saving hospitals and breast centers time and money and significantly improving care for women at high risk for breast cancer.

MRI breast scanning is the most sensitive imaging modality available, detecting suspicious lesions or breast cancer at the earliest possible stage of development with a 70%–90% accuracy rate. According to a recent Dutch study of nearly 2,000 women at high risk for developing breast cancer, MRI breast scans accurately identified breast tumors 71% of the time, whereas mammography detected tumors 36% of the time. MRI scans were 83% effective in identifying invasive cancers and mammograms were 26% effective.

Wound Care Product Directory Is Available Online

A new Web site offers a directory of wound care products. The site, www.woundsource.com, is maintained by Kestrel Health Information, Inc., in Bristol, VT, and features a search engine tool that displays data



from the company's print directories. Users of the site can search for products by company, trade name, product category, and patient condition. Other content includes articles, news, forums, and interactive tools for requesting product literature. The Web site

gives detailed information about each product, including a summarized description, reimbursement coding, sizing, and specific product features. Users can create comparison grids of selected products to

evaluate competitive products within the same category. Enhanced listings include product photos, links to company sites, downloadable product literature, and features for requesting further information or follow-up from each company.

New Guideline Addresses Fatigue and Anemia

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) have released a new guideline for treating side effects of cancer therapies. Titled *Fatigue and Anemia Treatment Guidelines for Patients With Cancer*, the guideline will help patients and healthcare providers make informed decisions about cancer treatments.

Fatigue is considered the most common side effect of cancer treatment and is experienced by up to 90% of patients undergo-

ing radiation therapy, chemotherapy, biologic therapy, and bone marrow transplantation. Fatigue, in addition to shortness of breath and weakness, is also a symptom of anemia.

To view the guideline, visit the NCCN Web site at www.nccn.org. Additional information about fatigue and anemia can be found on the ACS Web site at www.acs.org or at www.cancersymptoms.org.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/04.CJON.119-120