

## Cancer Information and Support Service

### Cancer News 15 November 2010

**Cetuximab plus gemcitabine and oxaliplatin looks promising as standard palliative treatment** THURSDAY, Nov. 11 (HealthDay News) -- Cetuximab in combination with gemcitabine and oxaliplatin shows promise as a first-line palliative care treatment for biliary tract cancers and appears to increase the chance for potentially curative secondary resection, according to the results of a prospective, phase II trial published online Nov. 10 in *The Lancet Oncology*.

**Early pain may mean worse tumor characteristics, shorter survival in hepatocellular carcinoma** FRIDAY, Nov. 12 (HealthDay News) -- Pain at presentation may indicate a worse prognosis for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), Brian I. Carr, M.D., and Lynette A. Pujol, Ph.D., of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, examined a large HCC database for the incidence of pain in patients with unresectable cancer to determine prognostic and clinical correlates. The research was published in the October issue of the *Journal of Pain*.

**Awareness up since 1986, but small proportion of men perform regular testis self-exams** FRIDAY, Nov. 12 (HealthDay News) -- Compared to a few decades ago, men may be more aware of issues surrounding testis cancer, including symptoms and cure rates, and may be more likely to perform self-examination. Rowan G. Casey, M.D., of the Adelaide and Meath Hospital Dublin in Ireland, and colleagues analyzed survey data from 677 men -- who answered questions testing their knowledge about testis cancer and whether they performed testis self-examination -- and compared the data with similar research from 1986. The men ranged in age from 18 to 67, with an average age of 44.9 years. The research was published in the October issue of *Urology*.

**Breast Cancer Patients More Satisfied with Silicone Implants** 12/11/2010 - Women diagnosed with breast cancer who have undergone mastectomy and breast reconstruction report somewhat higher satisfaction with silicone implants than with saline implants. These findings were published early online in *Cancer*.

**Lung Cancer Rates Influenced by Race, Geography** November 12, 2010 Lung cancer rates vary greatly by race and ethnicity, as well as by geography, a new CDC report showed. The annual rate of new lung cancer cases per 100,000 people was highest among blacks (76.1), followed by whites (69.7), American Indians/Alaska Natives (48.4), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (38.4), according to researchers from the agency's National Center for Chronic

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Hispanics had a lower rate than non-Hispanics (37.3 versus 71.9), the researchers reported in the Nov. 12 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

**Drop in preterm births appears to follow as a result** FRIDAY, Nov. 12 (HealthDay News) -- The implementation of a smoking ban in a U.S. city appears to have reduced the prevalence of maternal smoking and improved fetal outcomes, according to a study presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, held from Nov. 6 to 10 in Denver.

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**Public health: Unlikely challenge to human gene patents**

An unlikely team of federal politicians has teamed up to put an end to the practice that has led to legal wrangling worldwide. The issue is whether biotechnology companies such as US firm Myriad Genetics can patent the isolation of genes and gene products identical to those occurring in the human body, and then charge researchers and clinicians for access to the material. Next week Liberal senator Bill Heffernan, Labor MP Melissa Parke and independent senator Nick Xenophon will announce plans to introduce a private member's bill prohibiting the patenting of human genes and the natural products they produce. *Weekend Australian* 13/11/10 pg 12

**Risk: Breast cancer breakthrough**

This week a team at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland announced a major breakthrough in identifying the risk of breast cancer.

The group, led by Assoc Prof Alexander Dobrovic from the pathology department of the Peter MacCallum, reported the discovery of a novel modification to the BRCA1 gene. When it behaves, this gene actually protects women from breast cancer. When it mutates, it can cause familial breast and ovarian cancer. This newly identified modification - called an epimutation - stops the gene protecting women from breast cancer. It is known that mutation of the BRCA1 gene is hereditary, passed on in the genes. This latest research may answer why some young women, with no family history, develop breast cancer. Prof John Hopper, head of the Australian Breast Cancer Family Study, said the epimutation tripled the risk of developing breast cancer.

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**Warning on rushing into breast removal** November 12, 2010 The Australian- SOME women who have their breasts removed out of fear of a high hereditary risk of breast cancer may be doing so needlessly, experts warn. A woman with several cases of breast cancer in her family is known to face a higher risk of developing the disease. Since the late 1990s, a test has been available in Australia that can tell which women carry the BRCA mutations. Experts yesterday warned that widely cited figures suggesting a woman carrying the mutations faced up to an 87 per cent risk of developing

breast cancer were likely to be a significant overestimate -- possibly encouraging women to take drastic steps that could be avoided.

### **Men on ADT for prostate cancer have 30 to 40 percent increased risk**

THURSDAY, Nov. 11 (HealthDay News) -- Men taking androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT) for prostate cancer may have a higher risk of colorectal cancer, and that risk appears to increase with longer duration of ADT, Silke Gillissen, M.D., of the Kantonsspital in St. Gallen, Switzerland, and colleagues conducted an observational study of 107,859 men aged 67 years or older with prostate cancer diagnosed between 1993 and 2002, and follow-up through 2004. The men were either being treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists or had an orchiectomy. The research was published online Nov. 10 in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

### **Participants had regular mammography; changes parallel drop in hormone therapy use after 2002**

THURSDAY, Nov. 11 (HealthDay News) -- Alongside a steep decline in the use of hormone therapy, incidence of invasive breast cancer and ductal carcinoma in situ fell in older women undergoing regular mammography in 2002 to 2006, Ghada N. Farhat, Ph.D., of the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute in San Francisco, and colleagues analyzed data from 696,385 women aged 40 to 79 who underwent more than two million screening mammography exams between 1997 and 2006. The research was published online Nov. 8 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

**Association exists regardless of a woman's weight status** November 10, 2010 WEDNESDAY, Nov. 10 (HealthDay News) -- Women who exercise at least 150 minutes weekly may have a lower risk of endometrial cancer, even if they're overweight, according to research presented at the American Association for Cancer Research's Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research Conference, held from Nov. 7 to 10 in Philadelphia.

**Women Snub HPV Vaccination** November 09, 2010 PHILADELPHIA -- Less than a third of women who start out getting the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine wind up receiving all three necessary doses, researchers said here. In a single-center study of almost 10,000 women eligible for vaccination -- those ages 9 to 26 -- only 30.78% of the women who started the HPV vaccine regimen actually completed the required three-dose series, Kathleen Tracy, PhD, of the University of Maryland, and colleagues reported at the *American Association for Cancer Research Cancer Prevention meeting*.

## **13<sup>th</sup> National Breast Care Nurse Conference:**

***Save the date! Don't miss the 13th National Breast Care Nurses Conference: to be held in Melbourne, Australia on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 February, 2011.***

***This cutting-edge conference will provide a platform for experts to present groundbreaking information about breast cancer care. It will offer opportunities for high-level networking, information sharing and strategies that have the potential to improve the lives of thousands of breast cancer patients across Australasia.***

***For more information-Please contact Andrea Cannon via email [Andrea.Cannon@cancervic.org.au](mailto:Andrea.Cannon@cancervic.org.au) or phone 0412 443 678 for enquiries.***

## **AICR eNEWS**

### ***Feasting with cruciferous for cancer prevention***

#### **From the AICR Research Conference**

There's a good chance that one of the vegetables on your table is part of the Cruciferous family, a large group of vegetables packed with nutrients and other healthful compounds. Research has long linked cruciferous vegetables with overall good health, along with cancer prevention. Now, new evidence presented at AICR's Research Conference last month helps explain why cruciferous vegetables may play a role in preventing cancer.

Cruciferous vegetables are all part of the Cruciferae or cabbage family, and it's a large family. Vegetables categorized as cruciferous include: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale, along with rutabaga, watercress, and bok choy. Although population studies are inconsistent, several studies have linked high cruciferous vegetable consumption to lower risk of several cancers, including lung, prostate and colorectal. One major breakthrough in diet and cancer research occurred in 1992 when a Johns Hopkins University professor isolated sulforaphane from broccoli with funding from AICR. Sulforaphane belongs to a well-studied group of anti-cancer compounds called isothiocyanates (ITCs), and cruciferous vegetables are packed with ITCs. In laboratory research, sulforaphane, along with other ITCs and phytochemicals in cruciferous vegetables, leads to slower cancer cell growth and cell death in many types of cancer cells. And over the years, researchers have identified numerous substances in cruciferous vegetables that have shown anti-cancer potential

***If you or someone you love is affected by cancer, call the Cancer Helpline at 13 11 20 or view our website [www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au)***  
***If you wish to include an item in the Cancer News contact [Doreen.Akkerman@cancervic.org.au](mailto:Doreen.Akkerman@cancervic.org.au)***

**This newsletter does not reflect the views of the Cancer Council Victoria. It is put together from items in various medical journals and newsletters. If you are interested in an item, we suggest that you Google the resource and find the article on their website.**