

HonorHealth Research Institute Phase I Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Trial Pilot Sees High Complete and Partial Response Rates

Scottsdale, Ariz. (October 16, 2015) – As part of a phase I clinical trial at the HonorHealth Research Institute, a third drug has been added to a combination therapy previously approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in September 2013 for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

The drug Cisplatin was added to an Abraxane (nab-paclitaxel) and Gemcitabine regimen, which has already been determined to improve survival over Gemcitabine alone in a randomized phase III pancreatic cancer clinical trial at the HonorHealth Research Institute, a partnership of HonorHealth and the Translational Genomics Research Institute, or TGen.

This regimen is based on genetic research at TGEN, a non-profit biomedical research center headquartered in Phoenix.

“We are finding that patients are as individual as the humans who are affected by them,” said Erkut Borazanci, MD, a medical oncologist at the HonorHealth Research Institute. “We are learning that people with certain DNA profiles are more susceptible to certain kinds of cancer.”

The best known example of this, he noted, is the BRCA gene. When that gene mutates, it is more likely to cause breast cancer in women of Eastern European descent. The mutation has also been seen in patients with pancreatic cancer.

Patients eligible for the phase I clinical trial were stage four pancreatic cancer patients with no prior chemotherapy for systemic disease.

The stage I clinical trial pilot had 10 patients in it, and was funded by the Scottsdale-based Seena Magowitz Foundation. Of the 10 patients, two saw complete responses (no detectable cancer), six partial responses, one stable disease and one patient with progressive disease.

As the trial expands into stage II, it’s open to an additional 15 patients who must meet the same criteria as the pilot.

“We urge people with cancer to consider the possibility of participating in a clinical trial,” said Dr. Borazanci. Only about five percent of people who are eligible for participation in clinical trials ever enroll in research studies.”

Cancer patients who want to know more about the HonorHealth Research Institute Clinical Trials can call oncology nurse navigators at 480-323-1339 or visit HonorHealth.com/cancer for more information.

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About HonorHealth:

HonorHealth is a non-profit health system serving an area of 1.6 million people in the greater Phoenix, Arizona area. The network encompasses five acute care hospitals, an extensive medical group, outpatient surgery centers, a cancer center, clinical research, medical education, two foundations and community services with approximately 10,500 employees, 3,700 affiliated physicians and 3,100 volunteers. HonorHealth was formed by a merger between Scottsdale Healthcare and John C. Lincoln Health Network. HonorHealth's mission is to improve the health and well-being of those we serve. Learn more at HonorHealth.com.

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