

CTSA Treats First Patient with the ZEVALIN® Therapeutic Regimen



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Cancer Treatment Services Arizona now authorized to deliver new course of therapy for treatment of certain non-Hodgkin's lymphomas; treats first patient successfully.

Cancer Treatment Services Arizona (CTSA) is proud to expand its cancer treatment capabilities through the addition of ZEVALIN®, a radiotherapeutic antibody delivered as part of the ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen for the treatment of patients with low-grade or follicular non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL). Dr. Ajay Bhatnagar, board certified in Radiation Oncology, and Dr. Michael Stanek, board certified in Medical Oncology and Hematology, will work together to coordinate the flawless delivery of this multi-faceted treatment course.

Dr. Bhatnagar received training on the use of ZEVALIN® from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a leading institution for ZEVALIN® therapy since its inception. CTSA is fortunate to benefit from this experience that Dr. Bhatnagar has obtained, and is one of the only free-standing authorized treatment centers for ZEVALIN® drug administration in Arizona.

The ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen is a type of radioimmunotherapy, a form of radiation that obliterates cancer cells by means of an antibody combined with a radioactive substance. "It is unique in the fact that it is delivered systemically, rather than a localized radiation field delivered by a linear accelerator," Dr. Bhatnagar explains.

Delivery of the ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen is a multi-step process requiring the coordination of multiple physicians. The integration of medical and radiation oncology at CTSA allows the clinic to effectively circumvent the logistical challenges often associated with the administration of the ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen. At CTSA, Dr. Stanek will perform the first step in the course of treatment by delivering an infusion of rituximab, followed by a non-therapeutic dose of radiation in the form of In-111. After two to three days, whole-body gamma camera images are taken, and biodistribution of In-111 is assessed. If biodistribution is favorable, Dr. Stanek administers a second infusion of rituximab and then Dr. Bhatnagar delivers the therapeutic Y-90 ZEVALIN® dose. The entire regimen takes between seven and nine days, with the actual therapeutic dose delivered in just one day.

CTSA successfully began treatment of their first patient using the ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen in June 2010. “The patient had been previously treated with chemotherapy and radiation therapy for recurrent follicular non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and was fairly resistant to undergoing another six month course of chemotherapy,” Dr. Bhatnagar reports. “Once we explained that treatment with ZEVALIN® could be completed within a matter of days, and that all aspects of the treatment would take place in our facility, the patient was open to treatment. The ease with which we were able to orchestrate the course of therapy allowed us to successfully deliver the ZEVALIN® therapeutic regimen to our patient, who was extremely grateful to be treated in such a short amount of time.”

ZEVALIN® was initially indicated for the treatment of low-grade and follicular NHL, but its application has recently expanded. “Zevalin is now approved as front line treatment, in combination with chemotherapy, for Lymphoma,” explains Dr. Bhatnagar. “We will embrace this new indication, along with future indications of this drug in order to offer our patients the most advanced, efficacious treatment options.”

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About Cancer Treatment Services International, L.P.

Cancer Treatment Services International L.P. (CTSI L.P) is a provider of comprehensive treatment for cancer patients with a main focus on medical oncology and radiation oncology. The company was founded by a core group of physicians and businessmen with substantial experience in the development, operation and networking of cancer services on a national and international level. CTSI is able to provide innovative and technologically-advanced treatment solutions to areas of the world where therapy is currently inadequate in either quality or capacity. The company currently operates clinics and has development projects both in the U.S. and internationally.

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