

Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY

Contact:

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***** For Immediate Release *****

Local participants contribute to successful research studies

Numerous patients in the Clinical Community Oncology Program at Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY participated in three important cancer research studies for which findings have been recently published in several prestigious medical journals. A special thanks to the study participants, for without their willingness to participate, these findings would not have been possible.

The March 6th 2003 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine published an article on a study, which examined whether regular aspirin use would decrease the risk of colorectal adenomas, the precursors to most colorectal cancers. 635 patients with previous colorectal cancer participated in this study. Study results found that daily use of aspirin is associated with a significant reduction in the incidence of colorectal adenomas in patients with previous colorectal cancer.

The Journal of Clinical Oncology will be publishing a study, which examined the adjuvant chemotherapy of women with axillary node-positive breast cancer to compare sequential doxorubicin, paclitaxel, and cyclophosphamide with concurrent doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by paclitaxel for improvement in disease free and overall survival. A total of 2,005 female patients participated. Study results show that dose density improves clinical outcomes significantly, despite the lower than expected number of events at this time. Sequential chemotherapy is as effective as concurrent chemotherapy.

In another study published in the March 2003, Journal of Clinical Oncology, 3,121 women with operable breast cancer and involved lymph nodes participated in a study, which was designed to determine whether increasing the dose of doxorubicin in, or adding paclitaxel to a standard adjuvant chemotherapy regimen for breast cancer patients would prolong time to recurrence and survival. The study concluded that the addition of four cycles of paclitaxel after the completion of a standard course of cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin improves the disease-free and overall survival of patients with early breast cancer.

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