

3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Pharmacovigilance & Clinical Trials

October 27-29, 2014 Hyderabad International Convention Centre, India

Recent advances in breast cancer therapy

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The estimated number of new cancers in India per year is about 7 lakhs and over 3.5 lakhs people die of cancer each year. In Karnataka there would be about 1.5 lakhs cancer cases at any given time and about 35,000 new cancer cases are added to this pool each year. Cancer of the breast is the second most common (16.6%) seen among females. The first sign of breast cancer often is a breast lump or an abnormal mammogram. Breast cancer stages range from early, curable breast cancer to metastatic breast cancer, with a variety of breast cancer treatments. Male breast cancer is not uncommon and must be taken seriously. The last decade of the 20th century will be remembered for a number of exciting developments in the systemic therapy of breast cancer. Major strides have been taken in our ability to treat patients, from the development of new chemotherapeutic and hormonal agents for the treatment of advanced disease to innovations in the adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer, including the introduction of new agents and the evaluation and modification of chemotherapy dosages. A large number of clinical trials are in progress for the development of newer therapeutic measures. Some of the developments in this regard are the introduction of the taxanes, paclitaxel and docetaxel for both early and advanced breast cancer, supplementation of chemotherapy with stem cells, development of newer chemotherapeutic drugs; development of biologic therapy, drug therapy to prevent the development of breast cancer and palliative agents for the complications of bone metastasis.

Biography

Bhanu Priya B has completed her undergraduate degree from JSS Medical College, Mysore, affiliated to RGUHS, Bangalore. She is presently pursuing postgraduate degree in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore. She has completed clinical studies on drug utilisation pattern in chronic kidney disease and antimicrobial sensitivity and resistance pattern in a tertiary care hospital. Presently, she is engaged in preclinical studies and study on Adverse Drug Reaction monitoring study of antiepileptics.

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