

# Health Trends

## Drug Called Neovastat Shows Promise In Increasing Survival Time Of Some Cancer Patients

(NAPSA)—Recent news from Aeterna Laboratories could mean a big step forward on the war against cancer. In a recent Phase I/II clinical trial, several kidney cancer patients for whom no other treatment worked took Neovastat and were able to double their median survival time. Although it is still too early to make conclusions about the drug, the scientific data does point the way to a promising approach to cancer management.

The key to this progress has been the scientific discovery that cutting off the growth of new blood vessels can have a dramatic impact on stopping cancerous tumor growth. As a result, a new field of medicine has sprung up called anti-angiogenesis (meaning “against the formation of new blood vessels”). As demonstrated in the recent trials for kidney cancer, a drug like Neovastat that aims at stunting the growth of tumors by cutting off the nutrition they derive from blood vessel growth, can be effective in increasing survival time of certain cancer patients.

Since 1996, five hundred and forty patients have been treated with Neovastat in the United States and Canada. These encouraging results have led to pivotal (last stage leading to commercialization) Phase III trials in kidney cancer and non-small-cell lung cancer where patient recruitment has begun in order to confirm the drug’s efficacy, safety and potential in increasing patient survival time. Neovastat is one of the few drugs in this class to have progressed as far as Phase III trials. Aeterna has also begun recruiting patients for a pivotal Phase II

trial for multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer.

Neovastat is available to patients in an oral form that is the preferred method of drug delivery and trials show that it is safe and well-tolerated. Furthermore, it is being tested in combination with other therapies such as chemo-and radiotherapy, which is possible because of the drug’s low toxicity.

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**Toll free number available for cancer patients for information about clinical trial participation.**

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Neovastat is unique among drugs being tested as an angiogenesis inhibitor because it has multiple mechanisms of action that block two of the main pathways recognized as being responsible for promoting angiogenesis, VEGF and MMPs. Other drugs at comparable stages of development only target one or the other. A third mechanism of action has just been announced and this places Neovastat as the only multifunctional anti-angiogenesis product in late stage clinical development.

If you are a cancer patient or a physician interested in clinical trial participation, you can get information about current trials by calling (888) 349-3232.

Aeterna has an experienced management team, high quality production facilities and access to over \$60 million. It is traded on the Nasdaq and has the ticker symbol AELA.

To learn more about anti-angiogenesis drugs and Aeterna Laboratories, visit the Aeterna Web site at [www.aeterna.com](http://www.aeterna.com).