**Big Ten Fans Get A Television Network To Call Their Own**

(NAPSA)—No matter what your obsession is—whether it’s knitting, animation, pets, ethnic cooking or kayaking—chances are you can find a television channel that corresponds to your interest.

Sports are no different. For many patients and their loved ones, battling cancer is a long and hard-fought endeavor. But apart from the disease itself, patients must also contend with a potential danger associated with cancer and certain treatments, such as chemotherapy and surgery—an increased risk for blood clots known as venous thromboembolism, commonly called VTE.

VTE involves a blood clot that can travel from a leg vein to the lung, with potentially fatal results. Studies have shown patients with cancer are at a greater risk of developing VTE than non-cancer patients. For this reason, anticoagulant, or blood thinner, called FRAGMIN (dalteparin sodium injection) was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the extended treatment of symptomatic blood clots in the veins to reduce the recurrence of VTE in patients with cancer.

FRAGMIN is a low molecular weight heparin specifically designed for use in cancer patients, which can be anticoagulated for thromboprophylaxis (also see WARNINGS, Hemorrhage and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions).

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**NEW FDA APPROVAL FOR BLOOD CLOT THERAPY MARKS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORTIVE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS**

(NAPSA)—According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.3 million Americans are diagnosed with some form of cancer each year. For many patients and their loved ones, battling cancer is a long and hard-fought endeavor. But apart from the disease itself, patients must also contend with a potential danger associated with cancer and certain treatments, such as chemotherapy and surgery—an increased risk for blood clots known as venous thromboembolism, commonly called VTE.

VTE involves a blood clot that can travel from a leg vein to the lung, with potentially fatal results. Studies have shown patients with cancer are at a greater risk of developing VTE than non-cancer patients. For this reason, anticoagulant, or blood thinner, called FRAGMIN (dalteparin sodium injection) was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the extended treatment of symptomatic blood clots in the veins to reduce the recurrence of VTE in patients with cancer.

This is an important development in supportive care for patients with cancer, said Frederick Rickles, MD, FACP, clinical professor of medicine at George Washington University Medical School. "Physicians now have an FDA-approved low molecular weight heparin specifically designed for use in cancer patients, which can be anticoagulated for thromboprophylaxis (also see WARNINGS, Hemorrhage and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions)."

FRAGMIN is contraindicated in patients with active major bleeding or uncontrolled bleeding. It is currently available for oral use in the United States and for use in hospital settings. (see WARNINGS, Hemorrhage and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). FRAGMIN cannot be used interchangeably (unit for unit) with unfractionated heparin or other low-molecular-weight heparins.

In a clinical trial of patients with cancer and acute symptomatic VTE treated for up to 6 months in the FRAGMIN treatment arm, platelet counts of <100,000/mm3 occurred in 2% of patients, including 6% of patients who had platelet counts less than 50,000/mm3. In the same clinical trial, thrombocytopenia was reported as an adverse event in 10% of patients in the FRAGMIN arm and 25% in the oral anticoagulant arm. FRAGMIN dose was decreased or interrupted in patients with thrombocytopenia.

Thrombocytopenia of any degree should be monitored closely. Heparins, like FRAGMIN, can cause moderate and severe thrombocytopenia. The incidence of this complication is unknown at present. In clinical practice, rare cases of thrombocytopenia with thrombosis have also been observed.

The most commonly reported side effect is hematoma at the injection site.

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