# PRODUCT UPDATE

| Company | Product | Development |
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| Biotechnology General | BioLon | The Korean Ministry of Health has approved the sale of BioLon in South Korea. BioLon is a solution of sodium hyaluronate for opthalmic procedures. |
| Curative Technologies | CT102 | A phase II study that followed 70 patients over 20 weeks showed that the most effective dosage of CT102—a topical treatment containing naturally occurring growth factors—healed 80 percent of wounds, while placebo treatment healed 29 percent. |
| CytoTherapeutics | CereCRIB | The firm implanted its CereCRIB—an implant of encapsulated, non-human cells to treat chronic pain—in three cancer patients. Implants with viable cells were removed from two patients after 60 days. Both patients reported some pain relief. |
| DynaGen | NicErase-IA | The firm has completed an initial, 80-patient phase III trial of NicErase-IA, a lobeline-based therapy to reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms. The drug seemed to prevent withdrawal symptoms that occur after abrupt smoking cessation. |
| Genentech | Activase | A phase III study comparing Activase tissue plasminogen activator with surgery for peripheral arterial occlusion was stopped, because an interim analysis of 300 patients showed a difference favoring surgery. |
| Lifecell | AlloDerm | AlloDerm—dermal skin-replacement tissue—demonstrated 93 percent take in 18 patientssuffering from deep third-degree burns in a phase II trial. This rate was statistically equivalent to control sites grafted with the patient's own skin. |
| Liposome Technology | Amphocil | The U.K.'s Medicines Control Agency approved for marketing Amphocil—a proprietary formulation of amphotericin B, a broad-spectrum antifungal—for fungal infections where toxicity or renal failure precludes the use of conventional amphotericin B or where prior systemic antifungal therapy has failed. |
| Liposome Technology | Doxil | In patients with non-small-cell lung cancer, Liposome has initiated two phase II trials of Doxil, a Stealth liposome formulation of the anticancer compound doxorubicin hydrochloride. The trials will involve patients who have received prior chemotherapy and those who have received no prior therapy. |
| Matrix Pharmaceutical | Intradose CDDP | Matrix has expanded its phase I/II trial of Intradose-CDDP, which is injected intratumorally in patients with a variety of superficially accessible tumors. |
| MicroGeneSys | VaxSyn | MicroGeneSys and the Department of the Army will conduct a phase III trial of VaxSyn—a genetically engineered version of gp 160—in 5,000 to 10,000 people infected with HIV. Participants will receive several injections of VaxSyn each year and will be followed for up to four years. The study will measure VaxSyn's ability to prevent clinical illness and increase longevity. |
| Regeneron Pharmaceuticals | CNTF | Regeneron has started a 700-patient phase III study of ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Phase II results show that comparisons of rates of deterioration in muscle strength and pulmonary function between patients treated with 30 ug/kg of CNTF and placebo ranged in significance level between a p of .08 and a p of .20. |
| Ribi ImmunoChem Research | MPL-C | Enrollment has begun in a phase II study to evaluate the prophylactic use of MPL-C immunomodulator in heart-bypass patients to reduce post-ischemic dysfunction. |
| Somatix Therapy | GVAX | Somatix has filed an investigational-new-drug application with FDA to evaluate its GVAX gene-therapy product in phase I trials for the treatment of advanced renal-cell carcinoma. GVAX causes a patient's own genetically modified tumor cells to stimulate the immune system to selectively destroy remaining metastatic tumor cells following the excision of the tumor. |
| Univax Biologics | Hyper VAX+Staph | Univax has initiated a 200-patient phase II study of its vaccine to combat bacterial *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in patients with kidney failure. |
| US Bioscience | Ethyol | An amended new-drug application for Ethyol—a selective protector of healthy cells from the toxicities of certain chemotherapy drugs such as cyclophosphamide and cisplatin—has been submitted in response to FDA's request for additional data. The ammendment includes data from the completed pivotal trial in ovarian cancer comprising 200 patients with advanced disease and additional survival information on the original group of 121 patients enrolled in the trial. |
| Viagene | Gamma Interferon | Viagene has commenced a 20-patient phase-I gene-therapy trial to treat malignant melanoma. It will remove tumor cells from patients and insert into them the gene for gamma interferon to boost presentation of tumor-cell antigens to the immune system. |

**—Mark Goodstein**