



Kidney Cancer Canada

November 2007
Version 2.0

Kidney Cancer Canada Newsletter

➤ Patient Support and Advocacy Group for Canadian kidney cancer patients and their families

Message from our Chair, Tony Clark

KCC is growing and building momentum across the country. Patients are connecting with other patients across the country as we had hoped. Good things are happening!

We've recently joined the Best Medicines Coalition, a national organization

dedicated to providing timely access to new therapies.

We've also joined the Council at the Canadian Cancer Action Network (CCAN), the patient voice of the Federal Government's initiative called CPAC (Canadian Partnership Against Cancer).

We're also working closely with the Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada (CACC) to support access to new treatments and diagnostics.

Your letters to MPPs and Health Ministers are helping to keep concerns about treatment availability a current concern. Keep them coming!

Facts about Kidney Cancer Treatment in Canada:

Number of people to be diagnosed in 2007 **4,900**

New treatments approved for mrc in the 10 years prior to Nexavar in 06 **0 (Zero)**

Number of treatments (Nexavar or Sutent) reimbursed by provincial drug plans in the Maritimes **0 (Zero)**

Number of provinces to reimburse both Nexavar and Sutent for metastatic rcc. **2 (B.C. and ON)**



Special thanks to our partners in the pharmaceutical industry who have sponsored our meetings.

An example of their support: Wyeth Canada recently donated its 'Casual Friday' coin donation collection to KCC.

Shown accepting the cheque on behalf of Kidney Cancer Canada are Tony Clark and Deb Maskens with Taffik Choudhury of Wyeth Canada.

Kidney Cancer in the News...

The Globe & Mail recently reported that some 4,900 new cases of kidney cancer will be diagnosed across Canada in 2007. In an article entitled "Poor Diet ratchets up cancer risk" (Globe and Mail, Nov 1 07), kidney cancer was one of the cancers "convincingly

linked to excess body fat, particularly if it is carried around the waist". (Watch for an upcoming Patient Education Meeting on Cancer and Nutrition early in 2008.)

In other news, new treatments for metastatic kidney cancer continue to offer new hope.

Our Discussion Board has been active with patients reporting findings on new drugs in the pipeline including **AZD-2171, RAD-001, pazopanib, axitinib**, and others. Fancy drug names aside, the important news is that new treatments and combinations are just around the corner.

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Sign up on our
website for updates
and meeting notices.

Treatment Access Updates

Kidney Cancer Canada continues to build relationships with key decision makers to help patients secure access to much-needed treatments. In recent news:

Nexavar® (sorafenib) has been officially approved for reimbursement in British Columbia, Ontario, and most recently in Alberta although some restrictions apply in each case. Unfortunately the Quebec government has denied Nexavar again (October 2007). All other provincial decisions for Nexavar are still pending.

Sutent® (sunitinib malate) has been officially approved for reimbursement for mrc in British Columbia, Quebec and most recently in Ontario (Nov 2007), again with restrictions. All other provincial decisions are still pending.

Torisel® (temsirolimus) is currently under priority review with Health Canada and we look forward to its approval in the near future. Torisel will then be reviewed by the Joint Oncology Drug Review committee. In the meantime, Torisel is available to patients through a Special Access Program (SAP).

In some provinces, patients may be able to access these drugs through an exceptional access program. Speak to your oncologist about your treatment options, including clinical trials.

Kidney Cancer Canada will continue to work towards open, unfettered access to these treatment options. We are aware that many patients are falling between the cracks — even in those provinces where a ‘positive’ decision has been reached. If we can help you, please do not hesitate to call and make your case known.

Patient Story – Retired Ontario MPP becomes Patient Advocate



Bob and Pat Eaton, Dorchester Ontario

Diagnosed with metastatic renal cell carcinoma in October 2006, Bob was initially given a bleak prognosis. The orthopedic oncologist treating the cancer in his hip and pelvis, put it plainly: “looks like you’ve got 6 months”. Now in October 2007, that same doctor calls Bob his miracle man.

Between Christmas and New Year’s 2006, Bob considered himself at death’s door. “I had accepted that I would never work again – that this was the end.” Down to 150 lbs then, he had surgery to remove the tumors and then started

targeted therapy. In October 2007, Bob is back to 180 lbs and recent bone and CT scans show no evidence of disease.

Bob is now back to work as a real-estate broker operating four offices in the London Ontario area. Bob was an elected member from 1971 to 1985.

In his spare time, Bob is working with Kidney Cancer Canada to ensure that patients like him have access to life-saving treatments such as Sutent, Nexavar, and Torisel.