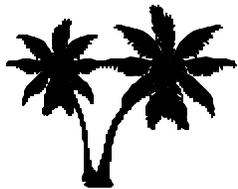




COURAGE Chronicle

January, 2001



Second Annual COURAGE Meeting

February 12-14, 2001

TradeWinds Beach Resort & Conference Center
St. Petersburg, Florida

If you have any changes or questions about your travel or hotel arrangements, please call
Liz Jobs at (203) 937-3440.

Transportation from airport directly to the resort (no stops) provided by Limo, Inc. for \$33 round-trip.
Call 1-800-282-6817 upon arrival to the airport in Tampa.

Dear COURAGE Trial Investigators and Coordinators:

The study Co-Chairman's Offices, and the West Haven VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center are pleased that you will be attending the upcoming Second Annual COURAGE Trial Investigators and Coordinators Meeting!

We recognize that your demanding schedules and other professional commitments often make it difficult to set aside three days that are devoted to an intensive update on the progress of our trial, but this represents a critical opportunity for all of us to once again highlight the many accomplishments that we have achieved to date, to discuss the many challenges we face in patient recruitment, to exchange openly with each other some of the successes, noble failures, and best practices that have developed over the past year as we rapidly approach becoming the second largest angioplasty versus medical therapy trial to date (BARI: 1,873 patients; RITA-II: 1,019 patients; COURAGE: almost 900 patients)!

There have been some crucial developments that bear importantly on the conduct, generalizability, and overall acceptance of the COURAGE Trial, which emanated from the recent Data Monitoring Board

Meeting in New York City on December 11, 2000. We will highlight these changes, and will en-COURAGE you to take heart in the accumulating data that emphasizes clearly that we are enrolling the right kinds of patients and are testing the right trial hypothesis.

This is a pivotal meeting for all of us to re-dedicate and re-focus our collective energies, to re-establish old (and develop new) acquaintances, to engage in the important networking opportunities that only first-hand encounters like this meeting can facilitate, and to re-energize for the new year ahead.

We hope that you will come to this meeting with a strong sense of purpose and with a commitment to participate fully and actively with your colleagues and peers. We very much look forward to that opportunity as well, and trust that you will find this a rewarding and stimulating experience in a Gulf Coast venue that promises a brief refuge from the ravages of (for some of us, anyway) winter and cold! See you in St. Pete!!!

Bill Boden
Bob O'Rourke





Pharmacy Issues

Niaspan® Titration

When Niaspan® was initially added to our list of COURAGE study drugs, Kos Pharmaceuticals Inc. provided Niaspan® Titration Starter Packs. Each pack contained the following 21-day supply:

Week 1: Seven 375mg tablets (ONE qhs)

Week 2: Seven 500mg tablets (ONE qhs)

Week 3: Seven 750mg tablets (ONE qhs)

This was the approved titration regimen provided in the Investigator's Brochure (dated: 6/25/98), which was sent to each site for inclusion in your Drug Information Binder.

In late 1999 this titration schedule was modified to the following:

Weeks 1-4: Take ONE 500mg tablet qhs

Weeks 5-8: Take TWO 500mg tablets qhs

A copy of this new labeling will be sent to each site for inclusion in Section VI of your Drug Information Binder. As a result of this modification, Niaspan® Starter Packs are no longer needed or available.

Tirofiban – loading dose

The currently approved labeling stipulates that the loading dose (4mg/kg) for tirofiban (Aggrastat®) must be infused over 30 minutes. Administering this loading dose IV push over 1.5 minutes is not currently approved by the FDA and should not be used in the COURAGE Trial.

Imdur Supplies

For the US sites our initial supply of Imdur 30mg expired 1/31/01 and the 60mg tablets expire 6/30/01. All of the Imdur received in the initial shipment has been distributed to sites. These supplies were donated by Key Pharmaceuticals through Integrated Therapeutics, a division of Schering-Plough. Until additional supplies can be obtained, if a patient is prescribed a 30mg dose of Imdur, We would suggest dispensing the scored 60mg Imdur tablets with instructions to take ONE-HALF tablet. Hopefully our new supply of Imdur will arrive soon.

In Canada the only strength of Imdur approved and distributed was 60mg. These supplies were donated by AstraZeneca Canada. For the Canadian sites the current supply of Imdur 60mg tablets expires 1/31/03.

Nitrolingual® Pumpspray

First Horizon Pharmaceutical Corporation has generously agreed to provide Nitrolingual® Pumpspray 400 mcg nitroglycerin/spray, 200 metered sprays per bottle. Although this product is distributed by Aventis in Canada, First Horizon has received permission to distribute their product to the Canadian sites.

PATIENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE

	To	Date
671	Audie L. Murphy VAMC – San Antonio	104
202	London Health Sciences Centre	79
203	Montreal Heart Institute	43
580	Houston VA Medical Center	43
506	Ann Arbor VA Medical Center	36
558	Durham VA Medical Center	36
205	Queen Elizabeth II HSC	34
209	Sunnybrook & Women's College HSC	30
598	John C. McClellan VA – Little Rock	30
630	New York VA Medical Center	27
663	Seattle VA Medical Center	27
306	Mayo Clinic—Rochester	26
200	Foothills Hospital	25
313	University of Oklahoma	24
596	Lexington VA Medical Center	24
312	University of Michigan Medical Center	23
501	Albuquerque VA Medical Center	23
304	Emory University Hospital	19
584	Iowa City VAMC/Univ. of Iowa Hospital	19
308	Mid America/Shawnee Mission	19
210	The Toronto Hospital	18
212	Vancouver Hospital and HSC	18
207	St. Paul's Hospital	15
626	Nashville VA Medical Center	15
204	St. Michael's Hospital	14
208	Sudbury Memorial Hospital	13
201	Hamilton General Hospital, McMaster Clinic	12
301	Boston Medical Center	12
648	Portland VA Medical Center	12
314	MIMA Century Research Associates	10
211	University of Alberta Hospital	9
315	Southern CA Kaiser Permanente Medical Group	9
316	Hartford Hospital	7
626	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	5
214	Hopital du Sacre Coeur	3
317	University of Rochester	0
318	University of Maryland	0
Total # of patients from terminated sites		21

Total Patients as of 1/26/01:

884

We expect to receive this product later this month.

As soon as product is received at PCC and labeled, it will be distributed to all COURAGE sites. We anticipate shipping product to sites within the next few weeks. Each site will be provided a Placebo Nitrolingual® Pumpspray bottle for teaching purposes along with patient brochures covering how to use the spray and product labeling information.

Change in PCC Personnel

There has been a change in PCC personnel – the Pharmaceutical Project Manager position. Lorina Gifford, MS left our Center in October, 2000. Bill Gagne, who many of you met at our annual meeting last year, has returned to the position of Pharmaceutical Project Manager for the COURAGE trial. The phone and fax numbers remain the same. Bill's email address is: william.gagne@csp.research.med.va.gov.