



## **THE MDS FOUNDATION SAYS THAT NCCN UPGRADES EPIGENETIC DRUG VIDAZA® AS FIRST “PREFERRED” TREATMENT FOR HIGH-RISK PATIENTS**

***National Comprehensive Cancer Network says new low-intensity therapies prolong  
stable disease and decrease need for transfusions***

***VIDAZA shown in clinical trials to improve survival***

Crosswicks, NJ (August 5, 2009) — The Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Foundation says updated guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network indicate new, low-intensity treatments can substantially change the course of disease in many patients with this malignant condition. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) develops evidence-based treatment guidelines from experts in each field of cancer based on published studies. An update to the MDS guidelines published this week lists VIDAZA® as the first “preferred” treatment for high-risk patients, those most likely to progress fastest without treatment, and says VIDAZA is “superior to conventional care (standard chemotherapy or supportive care) regarding overall survival,” based on the largest international study in this disease category.

MDS is a malignant condition of cells in the bone marrow. Patients require blood transfusions that can lead to iron overload, and the condition can progress to a serious form of leukemia (AML) that has a median survival of less than one year.

“There is no cure for MDS, however new approaches to treatment including VIDAZA, REVLIMID® and DACOGEN® can improve patient care, reduce the need for transfusions, which also saves money, and in the case of VIDAZA, can extend survival,” said Kathy Heptinstall, Operating Director of the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation. “It is good news for patients that the NCCN recognizes these benefits and updates its recommendations. It is critically important for patients and physicians around the country to be aware of these new treatment options and their potential benefits.”

The updated recommendations state VIDAZA, also known by its chemical name azacitidine, “should be considered for treating MDS patients with progressing or relatively high-risk disease.” The recommendations also say that DACOGEN has shown encouraging results, and data are encouraging for REVLIMID in lower-risk patients, especially those with chromosome abnormalities. VIDAZA is the first of the new treatments to be listed as Category 1 “preferred.”

More information about the guidelines can be found on the NCCN website or through the MDS Foundation.

### **About the MDS Foundation**

The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, Inc. is a multi-disciplinary, international organization devoted to the prevention, treatment, and study of the myelodysplastic syndromes. The organization is based upon the premise that international cooperation will accelerate the process leading to the control and cure of these diseases. For further information, please visit <http://www.mds-foundation.org>.

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