ASCO Updates Guideline for Use of White Blood Cell Growth Factors

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) today issued an update to its 2006 clinical practice guideline on the use of white blood cell growth factors (also known as hematopoietic colony-stimulating factors, CSFs). The agents are given to lower the risk of low white blood cell counts and fever (febrile neutropenia) associated with certain types of chemotherapy.

To develop this clinical practice guideline update, an ASCO Expert Panel conducted a formal systematic review of relevant medical literature published from October 2005 through September 2014.

Key recommendations of the guideline update are as follows:

- Primary prophylaxis with a CSF starting with the first cycle and continuing through subsequent cycles of chemotherapy is recommended in patients who have an approximately 20% or higher risk for febrile neutropenia on the basis of patient-, disease-, and treatment-related factors. Consideration should be given to alternative, equally effective, and safe chemotherapy regimens not requiring CSF support when available.
- Dose-dense regimens with CSF support should only be used within an appropriately designed clinical trial or if supported by convincing efficacy data. Efficacy data support the use of CSFs with dose-dense chemotherapy in the adjuvant treatment of high-risk breast cancer, and with high dose intensity methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, and cisplatin (HD-M-VAC) in urothelial cancer.
- Pegfilgrastim, filgrastim, tbo-filgrastim, and filgrastim-sndz (and other biosimilars, as they become available) can be used for the prevention of treatment-related febrile neutropenia.

The guideline update was published today in the Journal of Clinical Oncology and is available at www.asco.org/guidelines/wbcgf.
Information for patients about white blood cell growth factors is available at www.cancer.net/recommendations

ASCO encourages feedback on its guidelines from oncologists, practitioners and patients through the ASCO Guidelines Wiki at www.asco.org/guidelineswiki.

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**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 35,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, which funds groundbreaking research and programs that make a tangible difference in the lives of people with cancer. For ASCO information and resources, visit asco.org. Patient-oriented cancer information is available at Cancer.Net.

**About the Journal of Clinical Oncology**

The *Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO)*, the flagship journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, is a leader in reach, readership, impact, and influence. With a focus on significant clinical oncology research, *JCO* publishes over 1,000 articles in 36 issues a year.