California Oncology Group Uses New Technology to Choose Best Cancer Treatment

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NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 1, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Imagine the benefits if there was technology that pinpointed exactly which chemotherapy drugs work best in fighting each individual's type of cancer. No more guessing. No more trial and error. The good news is that such lifesaving technology is on its way to becoming reality.

Clinical trials involving 38 patients at Wilshire Oncology Medical Group are yielding positive results. Wilshire has several offices in Southern California including Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, Glendora, West Covina, Pasadena and La Verne.

Rancho Cucamonga resident Yvonne Cardinale has been a patient with Wilshire Oncology for about 18 years, being first diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer in October 1993. "I went through five months of traditional chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant," Cardinale said. "Then it came back. I was re-diagnosed in February 2008 when it was found in the lining of my lung."

Dr. Linda Bosserman, Cardinale's Pomona-based doctor, is also president of Wilshire Oncology Medical Group. Bosserman approached Cardinale, now 58, with the idea of committing to a clinical trial of a chemosensitivity test or assay. Cardinale agreed.

Cancerous fluid was taken from Cardinale's lung and sent to DiaTech Oncology Corp., a private laboratory based in Nashville, Tennessee, for testing. DiaTech uses a microculture kinetic (called MiCK) assay test to help predict treatment outcomes and to help decide which chemotherapy would be best for specific patients. Various forms of chemotherapy were tried on Cardinale's cancer cells.

"I was given the two most effective drugs that worked on my cancer," she said. "I felt because of this study I had a real advantage. The drugs worked well, and I feel good." Cardinale, whose mother is also a breast cancer survivor, will take her last dose of chemotherapy this month.

"What this test does is expose cancer cells to various chemotherapy drugs in the l
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