

Bayer conducts Xarelto trials on cancer patients

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Singapore: Bayer HealthCare and its development partner Janssen Pharmaceuticals have initiated the CALLISTO Clinical Research Program to explore the potential benefits of the oral Factor Xa inhibitor Xarelto (rivaroxaban) for the prevention and treatment of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis in patients with various types of cancer.

In patients with active cancer, the risk of VTE is four to seven times higher than in people of the same age without cancer. And importantly, chemotherapy significantly increases the risk further by up to 6.5 times. Despite this, none of the current Clinical Guidelines recommend the routine use of VTE prevention in most ambulatory cancer patients. Regarding the use of anticoagulation therapy for the treatment and secondary prevention of VTE, current Clinical Guideline recommendations are based on few and small clinical trials.

"Today, there is limited evidence and guidance on the routine use of anticoagulants for the long-term treatment and prevention of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis in patients with cancer, despite blood clots being the leading cause of death in patients with cancer outside the cancer itself," said Professor Guy Meyer, Université Paris Descartes, European Hospital Georges Pompidou, Paris, France and one of the Principal Investigators within the CALLISTO Program. "I am optimistic that results from the CALLISTO Program will provide important clinical insights to help reduce the risk of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, conditions that can be treated and prevented."

The CALLISTO Program is a multi-trial prospective clinical research initiative aimed at generating new evidence to help

manage cancer-associated thrombosis (CAT).

"The CALLISTO Program is an important milestone for Bayer in our ongoing work to address unmet medical needs through our experience in both oncology as well as thrombosis management," said Dr Michael Devoy, member of the Bayer HealthCare Executive Committee and chief medical officer, Bayer HealthCare. "CALLISTO will build on the existing clinical evidence for rivaroxaban in the prevention and treatment of potentially deadly blood clots across a broad range of indications and patients."