



CLL Live Registration

Registration for CLL Live 2018 will begin on **December 15** for CLLPAG members. Registration for non-members will begin on January 15, 2018. Registration links, agenda, hotel reservation info and other details will be posted on cllpag.ca and lymphoma.ca websites. CLL Live 2018 is from Thursday, April 19 (evening) to Saturday, April 21 (mid-day) in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Questions should be directed to: cll.live.canada@gmail.com

Patient Evidence Submissions

Ontario's Committee to Evaluate Drugs is considering applications to list Venetoclax (second-line) and Bendamustine (first-line) on Ontario's drug formulary. In addition to clinical data, the committee considers evidence about patients' experience with the disease and already approved drugs. Using information from our patient surveys, CLLPAG made submissions for both drugs.

Venetoclax NOT Recommended by pCODR

In a disappointing initial decision, pCODR (pan Canadian Oncology Drug Review) did not recommend reimbursement of venetoclax for CLL patients who have failed prior therapy with a B cell inhibitor such as ibrutinib and idelalisib. Among the reasons for their decision, pCODR referred to substantial budget impact and to the lack of robust clinical evidence on 'progression free survival' and 'overall survival'. In support of the venetoclax application, CLLPAG submitted evidence from 320 patients. We will be sending our feedback to the decision in an effort to influence the final decision.

The decision can be read at:

www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pcodr/pcodr_venetoclax_venclexta_cll_in_rec.pdf

New Shingles Vaccine

CLL patients and other immune-compromised patients have an increased risk of developing shingles. Health Canada recently approved Shingrix, a shingles vaccine for people ages 50 and older with normal immune systems. In trials, the vaccine was effective in preventing shingles in >90% of patients. The vaccine is given in two doses by intramuscular injection. The vaccine's manufacturer, *GlaxoSmith Kline* has studies underway on the use of Shingrix with patients with hematologic malignancies, such as CLL, and expects the results to be reported in 2018.

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For more info: cllpag.ca

Season's Greetings

Wishing you a Happy and
Healthy New Year

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