

MEDIA SUMMARY REPORT

HEALTH ISSUE

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New Breast Cancer Therapy

The new breast cancer therapy, trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1), lengthens life expectancy up to five years for breast cancer patients diagnosed with positive HER-2 (Human Epidermal-growth factor Receptor-2). The Roche-made T-DM1 is a combined therapy of trastuzumab antibody and emtansine chemotherapy to destroy targeted HER-2 cancer cells. T-DM1 therapy will not destroy healthy cells and is being tested in USA and several European countries, said Dr. Arya Wibitomo, Head of Medical Management PT Roche Indonesia. Roche has been researching on HER-2 for nearly 30 years. Genentech, a subsidiary of Roche Group, has requested Biologic License Application (BLA) licence for trastuzumab emtansine to FDA.

Person quoted (s): Dr. Arya Wibitomo, Head of Medical Management PT Roche Indonesia

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Beware of Breast Cancer Therapy without Scientific Method

Breast cancer ranks second as the most prevalent cancer in Indonesia, according to 2006 Anatomy Pathology data. People with breast cancer needs to take full consideration when taking a therapy as many breast cancer therapies are now emerging, said Prof. dr. Soehartati Gondowihardjo SpRad, radiologist, during a "Recognize, Treat, and Prevent Breast Lumps" seminar in Gading Pluit Hospital. People should not worry about standard and scientifically-proven therapies such as surgery, radiation and chemotherapy but there are many therapies that are not based on scientific method and data. Women should regularly self-check their breast to find lumps, said dr. Angela Giselvania SpOnkRad, oncologist-radiologist. Women above 40 years should take mammography check once in a year and lead healthier lifestyle.

Person quoted (s): Prof. dr. Soehartati Gondowihardjo SpRad, radiologist
dr. Angela Giselvania SpOnkRad, oncologist-radiologist

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

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War Against Counterfeit Drugs Moves Online

Food and Drugs Monitoring Agency (BPOM) is moving its campaign online against counterfeit drugs and forming a special task force to handle the problem, said Antonia Retno Tyas Utami, deputy of the narcotic and therapeutic drug monitoring division at BPOM. The agency had also joined the global Operation Pangea coordinated by Interpol to combat counterfeit drugs sold online. The Internet had become a major marketplace for illegal and counterfeit drug sellers as more people in Indonesia went online. In the recent Operation Pangea VI in six provinces, the agency found 129 websites and 20 stores selling or producing 721 types of counterfeit drugs worth Rp5.59 billion. Communication and Information Technology Ministry (Kemenkominfo) had worked with BPOM to shut down websites marketing counterfeit drugs, said Gatot Dewa Broto, Kemenkominfo spokesman. BPOM will bring the issue to the upcoming APEC Summit in Bali in October. Most counterfeit drugs found in Indonesia were in the form of lifestyle drugs such as erectile dysfunction drugs, slimming pills, and vitamin C serum and some counterfeited brands as Viagra, Cialis and Laroscorbine.

Person quoted (s): Antonia Retno Tyas Utami, deputy of the narcotic and therapeutic drug monitoring division, BPOM
Gatot Dewa Broto, Kemenkominfo spokesman