

Health Canada approves new cancer treatment drug

Oakville-based Melanoma Network of Canada says it is pleased with Health Canada's approval of the treatment drug Yervoy, in a recent statement.

Yervoy, an ipilimumab injection, is now accepted as a first option for the treatment of patients newly diagnosed with metastatic melanoma.

The news follows a report issued earlier this year by the Canadian Cancer Society concerning the rise of skin cancer in the country.

"After so many years of having very few options that actually impact survival, there are a lot of good things happening for melanoma and having approval of Yervoy as an initial therapy for newly-diagnosed patients is the latest," Annette Cyr, Melanoma Network of Canada chair, said in a news release.

"It's very good news for those patients who, unfortunately, will receive this diagnosis in the future. What's really positive is that many Yervoy-treated patients that we know of are living years longer.

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Melanoma Network of Canada chair

nations of therapies that have the potential to be game-changers. It's very reassuring to know that melanoma is finally becoming a priority."

According to the release, Yervoy works by stimulating the body's own immune system to fight the cancer. It was approved in 2012, but only for patients who could not tolerate, or who had failed on, other therapies.

Melanoma is one of the fastest-growing cancers worldwide with an estimated 6,500 cases being diagnosed in Canada this year and approximately 1,050 dying from the disease, according to the Melanoma Network of Canada.

"If you had asked me five years ago what it was like to treat patients with advanced melanoma, I would have told you that what we had available to us was not very encouraging," medical oncologist, Dr. Anthony Joshua, said in the release.

"Today, not only do we have options for our patients with what's already been approved but there are newer treatments on the horizon and the data that we've seen looks very promising.

"The news about Yervoy will certainly impact the way we manage the newly-diagnosed patient with this disease. It has a good track record, and I can tell my patients that

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Advertorial

New diabetes clinic opens

South east Oakville diabetes patients looking to see a specialist locally and quickly can now do so with Dr. Jagmeet Sethi. A general internal medicine specialist practicing in diabetes, Dr. Sethi is a former assistant professor at McMaster University in Hamilton and in-patient hospital doctor at The Jurvinski Hospital, also in Hamilton.

She is happy to bring her years of experience to Oakville each Friday to a newly opened diabetes clinic located within Walker's Vitamin store.

Patients wishing to see Dr. Sethi don't need a

referral from their family doctor to do so and can benefit from an initial consultation and a follow up visit every three months as outlined by the Canadian diabetes guidelines. All visits are fully covered by OHIP and patients can enjoy free parking at the Maple Grove Village Mall.

Visit the diabetes clinic at 511 Maple Grove Dr., unit 11 within the Maple Grove Village Mall in Oakville, located south of the QEW, east of Trafalgar, on Cornwall Road. For more information or to book a consultation, call 289-837-3995.

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