

failed to show increased toxicity on human myeloid stem cells. Likewise several early studies (24, 41, 42) using the calcium channel blocker verapamil in combination with several anti-cancer agents in humans has failed to document enhanced toxicity of these agents.

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## 2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 2.1 To determine the toxicity of adding a calcium channel blocker to the cis Platin and 5-Fluorouracil regimen.
- 2.2 To determine the response rate of patients with colorectal cancer to a regimen consisting of cis Platin and 5-Fluorouracil and the calcium channel blocker diltiazem.

## 3.0 SELECTION OF PATIENT

### 3.1 Eligibility

Patients with advanced colorectal cancer that is incurable by surgery, radiation or chemotherapy

### 3.2 Entrance requirements

- a. Measurable disease by routine radiologic studies or physical examination
- b. ECOG performance of 0-2
- c. Estimated survival of at least 3 months
- d. Hemoglobin  $\geq 9.0$ , WBC  $\geq 4,000$ , platelet count  $\geq 100,000$ , Cr cl  $\geq 40$ ml/min
- e. Ability to give informed consent

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### 3.3 Exclusions

- a. Prior history of congestive heart failure or cardiac arrhythmias
- b. Concomitant treatment with Beta blockers or digoxin ✓
- c. EKG findings consistent with first, second or third degree heart block or sinus bradycardia (HR <60)
- d. Left ventricular ejection fraction  $\leq 45\%$
- e. Prior treatment with Ardiamycin at a dose  $\geq 350\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  ✓
- f. Prior history of renal disease (serum cr  $\geq 2.0$ )
- g. Chemotherapy administration within 4 weeks of treatment (6 weeks for nitrosourea)
- h. Radiation therapy administered to a signal lesion within 6 weeks of treatment

### 3.4 Pre-Treatment Testing

Prior to entering the study, all patients will undergo physical examination, CBC/Diff/Plts., SMA 6-12, appropriate radiographic study of signal lesion(s) (CXR, CT scan etc), EKG, MUGA scan, Cr Cl, and CEA

### 4.0 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF STUDY

Patients entered on protocol will begin taking Diltiazem 2 days prior to admission to allow for adequate levels at the start of chemotherapy. The initial starting dose will be 30mg by mouth every 6 hours. This dose will be escalated by 30mg in sequential sets of 5 patients assuming no untoward effects are noted at the previous dose level. A maximum dose of 90mg by mouth every 6 hours will be attempted. Diltiazem will be continued at the same dose until 24° after completion of chemotherapy.

**ENCLOSURE(164)**