

## **Palladia ® (toceranib phosphate)**

### **A New Drug for the Treatment of Cancer in Dogs**

A new and exciting anti-cancer treatment option has recently been made available to veterinary oncologists in the United States. Palladia ® (toceranib phosphate) is actually the first drug to be approved by the FDA for treating cancer in animals.

Palladia ® is a member of the receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) family of targeted anti-cancer therapies. This class of drugs has caused significant excitement in the human cancer field. The most widely known receptor TKI is Gleevec ® (imatinib mesylate), a drug that has revolutionized the successful treatment of human gastrointestinal stromal tumors and chronic myelogenous leukemia. Palladia ® is a multi-receptor TKI that is similar to Gleevec ® and works by targeting mutated receptors involved in both cellular proliferation and tumor angiogenesis pathways.

Mast cell tumors are the most common cutaneous tumors seen in dogs. Mutations in the receptor tyrosine kinase known as KIT occur in 20-30% of grade 2 and 3 canine mast cell tumors. Palladia ® successfully targets mutated KIT receptors in mast cell tumors. Specifically, Palladia ® is indicated for the treatment of grade 2 and 3 recurrent mast cell tumors, with or without lymph node metastasis. Preliminary clinical trials indicate Palladia ® may also have anti-cancer activity against some carcinomas and sarcomas as well. Information is not currently available about the use of Palladia ® in cats.

Palladia ® is a unique form of anti-cancer therapy for animals. It is available as oral tablets that are designed to be administered every other day by at home by the owners, rather than being given intravenously at the veterinarian's office as we do for most other chemotherapy drugs. Initially, patients receiving Palladia ® are scheduled for weekly rechecks for the first 6 weeks of therapy. Rechecks are reduced to an every 6 week basis after that point. The major toxicities seen with Palladia ® are adverse gastrointestinal signs rather than hematological toxicity as seen with other traditional chemotherapy agents.

If you have a patient that you believe would benefit from Palladia ® therapy, please feel free to schedule an appointment with the oncology service at Veterinary Specialists of Rochester, or speak with Dr. Intile (DACVIM – oncology) by calling 585 424-1260.