toxicity or to patients with very advanced disease for whom the prognosis was not very favourable. The accrual of patients into the study has thus been slow, but results to date indicate that Carboplatin retains the pronounced activity of Cisplatin against testicular tumours and that its use in combination with other drugs such as Etoposide and Bleomycin can produce a high percentage of disease-free patients even for very advanced tumours.

Two other speakers, Dr. B. Leyland-Jones of the National Cancer Institute and Dr. C. Franks of Bristol-Myers Co. Ltd., provided a broader view of the trials involving Carboplatin in the U.S.A. and Europe, respectively. The drug is being evaluated in Phase II trials for a wide spectrum of tumours, and where activity is seen Phase III trials will be initiated to define whether Carboplatin can offer any benefit over the best existing therapies. In a number of these trials Carboplatin is being compared with Iproplatin (JM-9).

Continuing Developments

The proceedings were concluded by Bristol-Myers', Senior Vice-President for anti-cancer research, Dr. S. Carter. He reviewed the day's presentations, acknowledging the contribution made by Professor Harrap's team at the Institute of Cancer Research and the clinicians of the Royal Marsden Hospital to the development of Carboplatin, enabling its launch as "Paraplatin" only five years after the initiation of clinical trials. He outlined the Bristol-Myers' strategy for the development of "Paraplatin" through continuing clinical trials which will involve its inclusion in combination drug therapies and in combined treatments with irradiation (3) and/or surgery. In addition, high-dose therapies and the use of alternative routes of administration will continue to be explored. Finally, he indicated that Bristol-Myers remains active in the further development of platinum drugs, in collaboration with Johnson Matthey, with particular attention being paid to improvements in selectivity by targeting with monoclonal antibodies.

The symposium clearly highlighted the role of Carboplatin as an analogue of Cisplatin. The new drug possesses similar activity, and probably a similar spectrum of activity, but has a very much narrower and more manageable range of toxicities. In view of the number and the promise of ongoing trials it is anticipated that the use of Carboplatin will be extended beyond the ovarian and small cell lung cancers for which it has been approved initially.

Acknowledgement

"Paraplatin" is a trade mark for Carboplatin, JM-8, and is owned by Bristol-Myers Co. Limited. Applications for the registration of "Paraplatin" as a trade mark are pending.

References

1 E. Wiltshaw, *Platinum Metals Rev.*, 1979, **23**, (3), 90
2 K. R. Harrap, *Platinum Metals Rev.*, 1984, **28**, (1), 14
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The Chemistry of the Platinum Group Metals

Following the successful meetings held in Bristol in 1981 and Edinburgh in 1984, a third international conference on this topic is to be held in Sheffield from 12th–17th July 1987, organised by the Dalton Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Among the topics to be discussed are homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis, organic synthesis, bio-inorganic chemistry, chemotherapy, fuel cells, metal surface structure, and organometallic, co-ordination and hydride chemistry.

Professor P. M. Maitlis will deliver his Dalton Division Presidential Address at this conference and the T. A. Stephenson Memorial Lecture will be given by Professor E. A. V. Ebsworth. Distinguished overseas scientists who have already agreed to give talks include Prof. G. P. Chiusoli, Prof. R. H. Crabtree, Dr. D. B. Dombek, Prof. M. Ichikawa, Prof. H. D. Kaesz, Dr. D. Milstein, Prof. I. I. Moiseev and Prof. A. Yamomoto.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the poster sessions, or to receive further information, should contact Dr. J. F. Gibson, Secretary (Scientific), Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, England.