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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**EVIDENCE OF KAPOSI SARCOMA SYMPTOM PALLIATION FROM  
CHEMOTHERAPY: AMC STUDY #009/ECOG STUDY E1D96**

ROCKVILLE, MD, MAY 31, 2011: The AIDS Malignancy Consortium and Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group have completed a clinical trial of chemotherapy for the treatment of AIDS-associated Kaposi's sarcoma. The study randomized 73 individuals with HIV infection and advanced Kaposi's sarcoma to one of two intravenously-administered drugs--either paclitaxel or pegylated liposomal doxorubicin. These two drugs are commonly used for the treatment of AIDS-associated Kaposi's sarcoma, particularly when Kaposi's sarcoma causes symptoms like swelling and pain. The goal was to compare how often paclitaxel and liposomal doxorubicin reduce the size of Kaposi's sarcoma tumors in individuals who need chemotherapy for control of their cancer. A secondary goal of this study was to determine whether these two drugs improve symptoms such as pain and swelling associated with Kaposi's sarcoma.

Fifty-six percent of the volunteers who received paclitaxel and 46% of the volunteers who received liposomal doxorubicin had a significant reduction in the size of their tumors. Both chemotherapy drugs were equally effective in preventing tumor progression. Two-year survival rates were also comparable for those who received paclitaxel (79%) and those who received liposomal doxorubicin (78%). Both paclitaxel and liposomal doxorubicin improved symptoms of advanced Kaposi's sarcoma including pain and swelling. Sixty-nine percent of all volunteers had an improvement in pain, and most (93%) had an improvement in swelling following treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma. Volunteers who received paclitaxel had lower blood counts, more numbness or tingling of hands and feet, and more instances of hair loss than those who received liposomal doxorubicin.

In conclusion, both study medications were similarly effective in controlling the growth of advanced Kaposi's sarcoma. Both medications produced significant improvements in pain and swelling. Volunteers who received paclitaxel, however, had more side effects than those volunteers who received liposomal doxorubicin.

We believe information gained from this study provides important information about the value of using chemotherapy drugs, especially when Kaposi's sarcoma causes swelling or pain.

**Reference:** Cianfrocca M, Lee S, Von Roenn J, et al. Randomized Trial of Paclitaxel versus Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin for Advanced Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Associated Kaposi Sarcoma Evidence of Symptom Palliation from Chemotherapy. *Cancer* 2010 116:3969-3977. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20564162>

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AIDS Malignancy Consortium Trial #009/E1D96: A randomized trial of paclitaxel versus pegylated liposomal doxorubicin for advanced human immunodeficiency virus-associated Kaposi's sarcoma.

**For more information about HIV cancer malignancies, visit the AMC Web site at**

<http://www.AIDSCancer.org>