



Newsletter

■ August, 2022



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Founder Speaks

The challenges to cancer care are vast and diverse and cannot be handled by a single party or with easy fixes. In order to promote and advance sustainable research and deliver access to breakthrough medicines across the globe, dialogue is essential to understanding the objectives and requirements of each stakeholder in the access equation, including doctors, nurses, patients, providers, and governments.

RAPID Global Cancer Alliance is an organization comprised of passionate individuals who share a common vision and mission in the global fight against cancer where all individuals, regardless of where they are placed cancer patients have timely, affordable access to the best care and treatment available throughout their lives. We bring a variety of skills, expertise, and experiences to the table.

As an organization, we stand for and believe that multi-stakeholder collaboration enables us to take advantage of possibilities in ways that have a bigger impact. We are more able to connect to the various issues that cancer patients face because of our diversity and wide range of skills, which include knowledge from the medical front lines, patient viewpoints, business acumen, and policy-maker insights.



Mr. Kamal Narayan
CEO, RAPID global cancer alliance

The RAPID Newsletter, the monthly for Oncologists, medical experts, industry professionals, cancer patient groups and survivors, published by RAPID Global Cancer Alliance, provides a platform not only for patients and their families to share tales of motivation and optimism as well as the difficulties that often come with a cancer journey; but also serves as a platform for providers to discover a compilation of the most recent information on the cancer patient community, recent policy changes, forthcoming events, and other fascinating possibilities here.

In that regard, I hope that RAPID is able to stimulate and accelerate greater advocacy, awareness, innovation, and research across various sectors in the cancer care ecosystem, possibly in other locations outside our own Country as well. Despite the diversity of the worldwide oncology space, we are all committed to improving the lives of cancer patients. As a result, I would urge all interested parties to have an open discussion to share their experiences and skills and to build a strategic partnership that will benefit breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families.



RAPID Advisor Insight

The key to longer-term improved health and reduced health care costs is in prevention of cancer. It has been estimated that in a year there are 14 Lakh new cancer cases in India. Out of these cases almost 50% of them are preventable either by following a nutritious diet, keeping a healthy weight, and engaging in daily exercise. The early identification of cancer as well at the outset helps prevent damage that may be caused in the long run, thereby effectively cutting down on many unwanted costs. Therefore, in addition to ensuring that individuals are given the knowledge and assistance they need to adopt healthy lifestyles, we need to develop and strengthen our national policies and programmes to decrease exposure to and increase awareness of cancer risk factors. This would entail stepping up public health approaches of awareness-raising through newspapers, television and social media channels as well as educational initiatives starting at a young age, aimed at promoting healthy lives, reducing tobacco use, investing in efforts to change social attitudes and individual practices, improving cancer registries, and conducting widespread cancer screenings.

The present situation is such that 80% of the people come in at a later stage for diagnosis, and among them only 20% are curable. Further, among the 20% of people who do

come in at an earlier stage of diagnosis, almost 80% of them are curable. This stresses the need to focus on preventive strategies to bring the 80% late diagnosis to an 80% early diagnosis in order to reduce the burden of the disease and also ease the load of the health infrastructure.

Prevention should be bolstered by increasing and strengthening comprehensive facilities in the country to provide optimum cancer care management. The majority of cancer centres and tertiary hospitals in India are located in metropolitan regions, where there are physical and human resource shortages that, among other things, not only make it difficult to provide high-quality cancer care but are also unable to keep up with the growing population demands. Since the government alone cannot address the limitations in healthcare facilities, a public-private-partnership model can be adopted for identifying and attracting suitable and sustainable investments. In our country the average person, in both urban and rural areas, cannot afford the new medicines being launched because they are so expensive. PPP should play a significant role in expanding cancer treatment facilities and lowering treatment costs. In order to improve the quality of cancer care delivered, it will assist in boosting the facilities for providing equipment and skilled human resource training of medical, paramedical, and nursing personnel.



Dr G.K Rath

Head, National Cancer Institute, AIIMS Delhi

I am deeply appreciative of the efforts RAPID Global Cancer Alliance is undertaking to provide a platform where individuals from various sectors can engage in dialogue, exchange knowledge, and influence how governments, NGOs, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders can cooperate to collect information and determine the challenge of eradicating cancer as a serious illness for future generations.

Industry Voices

According to GLOBOCAN statistics, 13,24,413 new cancer cases were recorded in India in 2020, with 27,20,251 prevalent cases over a five-year period. Per a WHO research, one out of every ten Indians will acquire cancer, and one out of every fifteen will succumb to the deadly disease. Cancer has the greatest out-of-pocket costs due to its chronic nature and costly treatment. The therapy costs frequently force families deeper into debt and most of the times end in financial disaster. Ensuring the accessibility of medication for these families is an essential part of their Right to Health. Government of India has already taken strides in terms of preventive and treatment coverage through Ayushman Bharat Scheme which aims to cover 100 million people from BPL section of this country. However, majority of population primarily from middle income group are still not covered. To serve this population, majority of the pharma companies are running Patient Assistance Program (PAP) and Patient Support Programs through which they provide support to the patients who are paying out of their pocket.

The kind of medicines which are covered under PAP are those which are targeted and innovative therapies and beyond the scope of middle-income group. The purpose of the program is to support patients who are not covered under any insurance scheme. These programs increase access and affordability for cancer treatment. In addition, several other easy pay model for purchase of cancer drugs are being operational at the industry level.



Ms. Amita Yadav

Patient Advocacy Lead,
India - AstraZeneca

Stories of Hope

It was a normal weekend in the life of a full time professional in the year 2009, when, after breakfast I sat down to look at the school work of my daughter. The sudden visit of “Shanta” who used to massage my children when they were young, brought a smile to my face as my shoulders cried for her comforting hands. A few strokes by her skilled hands were starting to bring relief to my shoulders when she decided to take a pull from the front and felt a lump in my breast. With that lump started a journey which completely overturned my life!

The diagnosis of cancer in my breast brought numbness initially, leading to confusion as none of the textbook causes of breast cancer applied to me. A lumpectomy surgery, then mastectomy and finally chemotherapy for the triple-negative Stage 3 cancer made me explore my body and my mind like never before. Since the physical and the psychological pain after the first chemotherapy became unbearable, I turned to painting. I decided to paint a canvas reflecting my mental state after each chemo. Not only did this activity give me a tool to vent my pain, but it also helped me understand my emotions in a better way. Dealing with the side effects became much easier.

Also, while going through my treatment I would see thousands of poor people going through a similar journey as mine and I would always ponder as to how they go through this challenging experience without any of the resources that I had. Holding their hand and providing them with everything that they would need to win the battle with cancer became my dream. Helping them come out of this experience scar free and to operate at a much higher level in life than ever before and lead a fulfilled life became my purpose.

With this resolve in me was born “Sanjeevani Life Beyond Cancer in 2012, a Non-Profit which provides Comprehensive cancer care pan India. I continue to work towards my mission of making cancer patients win their fight against cancer by teaching them tools which help them manage side effects of their treatments better and also reduce their chances of having a recurrence and live a beautiful and an enriched life.



Ms. Ruby Ahluwalia

Founder Sanjeevani Life Beyond Cancer & Breast Cancer Survivor

National Developments



Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Care Affordability
- **UPDATE:** Parliamentary panel to hear views of stakeholders on 'Affordability of Cancer Treatment'

Key Highlights

- Parliamentary Committee on Health and Family Welfare started a discussion over 'Affordability of Cancer Treatment' in the presence of a maximum of the 28 members that includes seven from the Rajya Sabha and 21 from the Lok Sabha.

The Committee had suggested to the Central government for waiving GST on cancer drugs so that treatment for this genetic disease can be made affordable.

- The committee also emphasized on the issue for taking stringent measures to check the prices of medicine and radiation therapy.

The committee during its meeting with health secretary Rajesh Bhushan and senior health ministry officials suggested to make cancer a "notifiable disease."

- RAPID Global Cancer Alliance has also contributed to the discourse by submitting a report on 'Cancer Care Plan and Management: Prevention, Diagnosis, Research and Affordability of Cancer Treatment' on the request of the Rajya Sabha Sub-Committee on health.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada & Tirupati to get cancer care centres

Key Highlights

- A review meeting between the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Medical and Health department. Minister for Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Vidala Rajini noted the key points as:

- A centre in every 50 km radius,
- 3 cancer care centres in Visakhapatnam Tirupati and Vijayawada areas,
- A cancer care institute for children in Tirupati

- Rajani noted that cancer tests will be conducted across state; pilot project already underway in Chittoor district; goals are expected to be met by 2030.
- District Medical Officers have been directed to set up palliative care units with at least 5 beds in all teaching hospitals.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** Government plans to reduce prices of critical drugs on August 15

Key Highlights

- The Centre may announce a crucial decision on August 15 to significantly bring down prices of some critical medicines such as those for cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- The Centre is concerned about the high price of certain critical drugs and is keen to regulate them.
- Once the proposal passes, the price reduction will be approximately around 70%.
- The Centre is also working to revise the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2015 to include drugs that are currently in wide circulation

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** Manipur CM launches multi-specialty services for cancer treatment

Key Highlights

- The 100-bedded multi-specialty services to provide world-class cancer treatment at American Oncology Institute (AOI) at Babina Specialty Hospital, Shajiwa in Imphal East, was inaugurated by Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh.
- The hospital now has expanded its services beyond comprehensive cancer-care facilities to specialty departments like neurology, urology, critical care, general surgery, internal medicine, in order to improve specialty-care services in the state.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** Cochin Cancer Research Centre gets nod for projects worth Rs 14.5 crore

Key Highlights

- Cochin Cancer Research Centre (CCRC) will be getting more facilities to cater to the cancer patients in the district and beyond. The centre has received approval for development projects worth ₹14.5 crore.
- According to CCRC officials, funds will be allocated-
 - to procure medicines needed to treat cancer,
 - the latest medical equipment
 - schemes to help control the spread of cancer.
- The centre will be getting a new standby anaesthesia machine, two portable ultrasound machines, three multi-para monitors, a coagulation analyser, equipment for the operation theatre, a microscope, and an operating microscope and C-Arm machine.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** Cancer Prevention Clinic Opens at Kolkata Police Hospital

Key Highlights

- West Bengal has fulfilled its aim to launch a cancer prevention clinic at Kolkata Police Hospital at Bhowanipore.
- The state government has inaugurated this clinic at the hospital in collaboration with the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.
- In order to provide good quality of cancer treatment, the government has selected a team of doctors, nurses and technologist who were sent to Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai to complete the training course and head back to Kolkata.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** 'Cervavac' by Serum Institute to prevent cervical cancer; gets DCGI nod

Key Highlights

- Cervavac- country's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV), manufactured by Pune-based, Serum Institute of India (SII)
- Has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for Market authorisation; estimated to be launched by end of 2022.
- The vaccine as noted by SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, is going to be affordable and accessible.
- In India, cervical cancer accounted for 9.4 per cent of all cancers and 18.3 per cent of new cases in 2020 (Indian Journal of Gynaecologic Oncology, December 2021).

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Robotic Device
- **UPDATE:** Surgical Robotic System, Made-in-India Set Up at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute

Key Highlights

- The Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre in Delhi installed the first-ever 'Made-in-India' surgical robotic system on the 14th July, 2022.
- After two pilot projects of 26 successful surgeries by Sudhir Rawal, Medical Director, RGCI, and his team with the surgical robotic SSI Mantra, the robot is now envisioned as ready for advanced methods of surgery.
- It will be accessible to the general public at a much lower cost.

Pharma and Device

■ **THEME:** Artificial Intelligence

■ **UPDATE:** Indian Researchers Create AI Tool for Personalised Cancer Diagnoses

Key Highlights

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) recently developed PIVOT,
- PIVOT predicts cancer-causing genes using a model that utilises information on mutations, expression of genes, and copy number variation in genes and perturbations in the biological network

The tool applies machine learning (ML) and has successfully predicted both the existing onco-

- genes and tumour-suppressor genes like TP53, and PIK3CA, among others, and new cancer-related genes such as PRKCA, SOX9, and PSMD4.

This study would be the first to use supervised learning and consider the functional impact of mutations while making predictions.

International Developments



Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Care Collaboration (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Fred Hutch and Amazon collaborating on clinical trial to test vaccines against cancer

Key Highlights

- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre with the advantage of Amazon's machine learning expertise collaborate on an early-stage clinical trial testing an anti-cancer vaccine in patients with certain types of breast cancer or melanoma.
- Trial has been posted on the US Government database of Clinicaltrials.gov of US National Library of Medicine.
- It will explore the safety of the vaccine and is intended to make the vaccine personalised for patients with late-stage melanoma metastatic breast cancer.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment (USA)
- **UPDATE:** COSELA®- World's 1st Comprehensive Myeloprotection Drug against Chemotherapy Damage has been approved in China

Key Highlights

- COSELA® (Trilaciclib Hydrochloride for Injection) is a first-in-class comprehensive myeloprotection drug to mitigate chemotherapy-induced myelosuppression.
- Jointly developed in China by Simcere and G1 Therapeutics, COSELA® has been conditionally approved by the China National Medical Products Administration (NMPA)
- The predicted number of new patients by 2040, requiring chemotherapy in China: 4.2 million
- Three published clinical studies have shown that patients who received Cosela® had lower chances of experiencing severe neutropenia, Grade 3/4 anemia, or Grade 3/4 thrombocytopenia
- COSELA®: world's first and only anti-tumor myeloprotection drug is considered "breakthrough therapy" and has been approved in the US in 2021

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Care Collaboration (Global)
- **UPDATE:** Legochem Bioscience signs agreement with Glycotope to develop cancer drug

Key Highlights

- Seoul-based Legochem Biosciences Inc and Berlin-based Glycotope GmbH will collaborate to develop an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) by combining LBC's technology with one of Glycotope's investigational tumor-targeting antibodies.
- ADCs are a type of biopharmaceutical drug designed as a targeted therapy for treating cancer.
- Unlike chemotherapy, ADCs are intended to target and kill only the tumor cells while sparing healthy cells.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment (USA)
- **UPDATE:** President Biden Appoints Cancer Panel Members and Cancer Cabinet Unveils Priority Actions.

Key Highlights

- US President Joe Biden announced intent to appoint Dr. Mitchell Berger, Dr Carol Brown and Dr Elizabeth Jaffee, distinguished members of the scientific, research, and public health communities to President's Cancer Panel.
- The Cancer Cabinet meeting focused on priority actions:
 - To close the screening gap
 - Understand and address environmental exposure
 - Decrease impact of preventable cancer
 - Cutting edge research to patients and communities
 - Support patients and caregivers

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (USA)
- **UPDATE:** National Comprehensive Cancer Network shares new recommendations for treating children with brain tumors

Key Highlights

- Newly-published NCCN Guidelines for Pediatric Central Nervous System Cancers synthesize the latest evidence to help care teams ensure children with high-grade gliomas have the best possible outcomes.
- NCCN intends to cover at least 90% of all incident childhood cancers through the growing library of NCCN Guidelines for pediatric cancers.
- Pediatric brain tumors are the second-most-common form of pediatric malignancy after leukemia and are the leading cause of cancer-related death in children.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Infrastructure (Australia)
- **UPDATE:** Digital cancer hub launched for children and families

Key Highlights

- Australian government has launched a digital cancer hub developed in partnership with children's cancer support groups : Canteen, Camp Quality, and Redkite- would provide online counselling services to children under 12 with cancer and their parents.
- Is built on Canteen Connect, a mobile app-based online community for people aged 12-25 dealing with their own or a family member's cancer.
- On an average, about 750 Australian children below the age of 14 are diagnosed with cancer each year- mainly leukaemia and tumours of the central nervous system.
- Aim: to support more than 70,000 Australians in their journey of recovery and assist 20,000 more with mental health support financial assistance and accommodation.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Policy impact(USA)
- **UPDATE:** Abortion bans may limit treatment options for cancer patients

Key Highlights

- The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade will limit cancer treatment options for pregnant patients since about one in every 1,000 women who are pregnant will wind up being diagnosed with cancer.
- Many treatments- in particular, radiation therapy and chemotherapy for curing cancer might do much damage to a foetus, leading to miscarriages or birth defects.
- Radiation therapy is not allowed for pregnant patients- thus, a person with cancer diagnosis would not be able to consider a therapeutic abortion and might have to decide against receiving life-saving treatment for the impacts on the foetus

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Doctors using AI catch breast cancer more often than either does alone

Key Highlights

- Radiologists assisted by Artificial Intelligence, according to new research, published in The Lancet Digital Health.
- This study is a pioneer in comparing an AI's performance in breast cancer diagnosis in terms of whether it's used alone or to assist a human expert.
- The process appeared to not require review by radiologists in close to three-quarters of screening studies and this could be a huge leap to mitigate the global shortage of specialists.
- The next step would be to confirm the performance of AI over a long period of time in actual clinics with real patients.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Infrastructure (Pakistan)
- **UPDATE:** Cancer treatment facility launched at Dow Hospital

Key Highlights

- The Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) has launched chemotherapy services for cancer patients at a lower cost in its Ojha campus.
- The cost of chemotherapy at Dow Hospital is informed to be much lower than in private hospitals.
- The medical oncology services have been completed at the hospital and are being supervised by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, UK specialist

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment (South Korea)
- **UPDATE:** Machine learning model to predict immunotherapy response in cancer patients

Key Highlights

- Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment meant to activate the body's immune system to fight against cancer cells without using chemotherapy or radiotherapy, and has fewer side effects.
- Only approximately 30% of cancer patients receive benefits from its therapeutic effect, and it currently fails to accurately predict patient's response to treatment.
- The research team led by Professor Sanguk Kim (Department of Life Sciences) at POSTECH have improved the accuracy of predicting patient response to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) by using network-based machine learning.
- The team successfully developed artificial intelligence that could predict the response to anticancer treatment and further proved that the treatment response prediction based on the newly discovered biomarkers was superior

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Trials (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Tumours disappear in all participants of small cancer drug trial

Key Highlights

- A small-scale rectal cancer drug trial showed promising results with tumours being found to have disappeared in 100 percent of the 12 patient participants.
- Carried out in the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, the patients were given a new drug, developed by pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, Dostarlimab, for a form of rectal cancer.
- The 12 patients were found without any trace of cancer upon physical examination or scans at the end of treatment.
- This comes as a breakthrough since there were more than 1.9 million new cases of CRC in 2020 and the global burden is expected to increase by 60 percent by 2030.

Pipeline News

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Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (UK)
- **UPDATE:** New Breast Cancer Drugs on NHS to Benefit Thousands

Key Highlights

- Around 3,000 women a year will benefit from life-extending drug Alpelisib and around 650 patients would have access to Trodelvy, for a certain type of breast cancer, which are to be made available through the NHS, as has been announced.
- Alpelisib, manufactured by Novartis, is used to target the gene that causes fast-growing tumours, in combination with the hormone therapy Fulvestrant. The drug can benefit women with triple negative incurable secondary breast cancer- it is common in women under 40 and affects about 15% to 20% of all women. This would be a possible alternative to the now administered chemotherapy.
- Clinical trials show that the drug can slow progression of the disease by several months and extend a person's life when compared to chemotherapy.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (Australia)
- **UPDATE:** Australian breakthrough in blood cancer treatment

Key Highlights

- A once underestimated group of cells is showing potential to improve a type of immunotherapy used to treat blood cancers, according to an Australian breakthrough.
- Already being widely tested in clinical trials, T cell engaging bispecific therapy has shown great treatment potential by essentially guiding the body's own T cells to attack and eliminate blood cancer cells according to research.
- A new discovery of a much less common type of cell- iNKT cells is a big step forward in the battle against blood cancers, as research in Brisbane's QIMR Berghofer Research Institute shows the importance of these iNKT cells and their critical role in boosting the efficacy of the T cell engaging bispecific therapy.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (USA)
- **UPDATE:** New Combined Therapy Greatly Improves Prostate Cancer Survival

Key Highlights

- A combination of androgen deprivation therapy which is a common hormone injection, and pelvic lymph node radiotherapy prevented prostate cancer from therapy in nearly 90% of clinical trial participants for five years.
- Affecting 1 in every 6 to 7 men prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in the U.S.
- The results came from a ground-breaking study from Cedars-Sinai Cancer and were recently published in the journal The Lancet.
- The research demonstrates that individuals with prostate cancer who were not administered pelvic lymph node radiotherapy or androgen restriction treatment had a five-year survival rate of 70%.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Turkish doctor's cancer treatment method

Key Highlights

- The U.S. FDA gave approval for a newly developed cancer treatment method by a Turkish interventional radiologist, Professor Rahmi Öklü; involving administering hydrogel intravenously to help stop the growth of cancer tumors.
- The method, called "shear-thinning," provides an opportunity to control blood flow in intravascular occlusions or aneurysms while reducing blood flow to tumors.
- It is designed for minimally invasive delivery through a vein, and will soon be launched in the U.S. under the name Obsidio.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (EU)
- **UPDATE:** 'Enhertu' by AstraZeneca gets EU approval for breast cancer treatment.

Key Highlights

- Two of AstraZeneca's existing therapies have been recommended for treating patients with certain forms of high-risk breast cancers in the European Union.
- Lynparza, a cancer drug developed jointly with U.S.-based Merck has been endorsed for standalone use or to be used in combination with endocrine therapy in adults with a form of genetically mutated early-stage breast cancer. The drug, has also received similar recommendation in the United States- for patients with low to normal levels of HER2 protein, the target of several new therapies.
- Enhertu, developed jointly with Japan's Daiichi Sankyo, is the other drug backed by the European Medicines Agency for treating an aggressive form of breast cancer characterised by a high rate of HER2. The drug is also expected to be cleared for patients with low levels of HER2 this month after a recent successful trial.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Novel Drug-Chemotherapy Combo After Stem Cell Transplant Associated With 'Favorable Survival Outcomes'

Key Highlights

- Maintenance treatment with eprenetapopt, a novel drug, plus the chemotherapy Vidaza (azacitidine) after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation was associated with improved survival outcomes in a group of patients with TP53-mutant, high-risk acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.
- In preclinical trials, eprenetapopt – a small molecule drug that may reactivate mutant p53 proteins – was active alongside Vidaza.
- 33 patients (14 with acute myeloid leukemia and 19 with myelodysplastic syndromes) of the 55 patients who received a transplant, received maintenance treatment with eprenetapopt and Vidaza.
- At a median follow-up of 14.5 months, maintenance therapy was associated with a median relapse-free survival of 12.5 months and an estimated one-year relapse-free survival rate of 59.9%.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (EU)
- **UPDATE:** Dr. Reddy's unveils cancer drug in U.S.

Key Highlights

- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has unveiled Bortezomib for Injection, in the U.S. market.
- Its product is supplied in a 3.5 mg per 10 ml single-dose vial presentation for subcutaneous or intravenous use.
- It is a proteasome inhibitor and is indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma and mantle cell lymphoma.
- The unveiling follows the U.S. FDA approval for the product.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatments (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Breckenridge Pharmaceutical (partner of Natco Pharma) gets FDA nod for prostate cancer treatment drug.

Key Highlights

- Natco Pharma revealed that its partner, Breckenridge Pharmaceuticals has received approval from the US health regulator for generic Cabazitaxel intravenous powder used in the treatment of prostate cancer.
- The US FDA granted approval for the abbreviated new drug application for Cabazitaxel intravenous powder of strength 60mg/1.5ml (40mg/ml)
- It is the generic equivalent of Jevtana Kit of Sanofi.

Pharma and Device

- **THEME:** Trials (USA)
- **UPDATE:** Obsidian receives FDA clearance to begin Phase I TIL therapy trial

Key Highlights

- Obsidian Therapeutics got its Investigational New Drug (IND) request granted by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin a Phase I clinical study of its tumour infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy candidate, OBX-115.
- Developed in partnership with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, it is armed with regulated membrane-bound IL15 (mbIL15) for
- improved efficacy, in terms of magnitude and response duration.

- The therapy candidate replaces IL2 with mbIL15 and eliminates the need for concomitant IL2 therapy, which is required for conventional TILs.

Preclinical data showed enhanced potency, TIL persistence, and tumour control of OBX-115 compared to unengineered TILs.