

Scottsdale Healthcare a lead cancer-drug trial site

Scottsdale Healthcare was the lead site for the “Hedgehog” clinical trial featured in an article Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Study results indicate the effectiveness of a drug known as GDC-0449 for advanced or metastatic basal cell carcinoma and potentially others. Dr. Dan Von Hoff, chief scientific officer at the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center at Scottsdale Healthcare, was the principal investigator and lead author of the journal article. The two-year study took place at Scottsdale Healthcare and two other sites.

— Diana Balazs/*The Republic/azcentral.com*

STUDY RESULTS PROMISING

Tumor shrinkage and limited side effects were observed. Taken orally, GDC-0449 works by blocking the hedgehog signaling pathway, a series of chemical reactions within a cell that lead to a known tumor-causing gene.

ABOUT BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

It is the most common skin cancer in the United States with more than 1 million new cases diagnosed each year. Surgery cures most cases, but advanced basal cell carcinoma can be inoperable.

ABOUT VON HOFF

Von Hoff also is physician-in-chief at the Translational Genomics Research Institute. Scottsdale Healthcare and TGen partner on many cancer clinical trials.

QUOTABLE

“The remarkable responses that are reported in the initial cases suggest that the hedgehog pathway can be the basis of an important new class of therapeutic agents with far-reaching implications in oncology.” — *New England Journal of Medicine* editorial.