

Royal Society of Chemistry Radiochemistry Group

Radionuclide therapy – chemistry and
applications

25th Sep 2007

St Thomas' Hospital

Market Forces Cited in Lymphoma Drugs' Disuse

New York Times

July 31st 2007

By [ALEX BERENSON](#)

The gist...

- Zevalin (Y-90-antibody) and Bexxar (I-131–antibody) are used rarely and much less than their effectiveness warrants in non-Hodgkins lymphoma
- Last resort after multiple other treatments failed
- "Oncologists use everything in their cupboard before they refer. At least half the patients who get referred to me have had at least 10 courses of treatment."

Why?

- Cancer physicians prefer to use drugs they are used to using under their own control
- Radionuclide therapies require specialist centres
- Interdisciplinary so more coordination needed (e.g. ARSAC licence holder, physicist, radiopharmacist etc. in UK)
- Lack of familiarity with radionuclide therapy – outside comfort zone
- Perceived high cost
- "Radioactivity-anxiety"

What can we do?

- Educate
- Talk, collaborate, break down barriers between scientific disciplines
- Break down administrative and organizational barriers
- Make better products
 - Better chemistry
 - Better radiobiological insight

Speakers and Disciplines

- Clinicians
- Medical physicists
- Radiopharmacists
- Radiobiologists
- Biotechnologists
- Chemists

Thank you all

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