

Finding a New Use for Thalidomide in Multiple Myeloma Patients



Measuring CWR's Success

Clinical Trials With Early Positive Evidence

Follow-On Funding for Follow-On Clinical Trials

Clinical Results Impacting Patients Broadly

In 2002, Cures Within Reach* funded Dr. Vincent Rajkumar at Mayo Clinic to test thalidomide, used in leprosy, as a treatment for the rare blood cancer **multiple myeloma** after his earlier studies demonstrated that it helped prevent the growth of new blood vessels, a key mechanism in cancer cell growth.



In 2003, Dr. Rajkumar published the results of this Phase II clinical trial, showing that thalidomide had significant potential as part of initial therapy for asymptomatic early-stage multiple myeloma to delay progression to symptomatic disease. Roughly 33% of trial participants had a partial response to therapy (at least a 50% reduction of a multiple myeloma-linked protein) and another 33% had a minor response (between 25-49% reduction). In addition, this was accompanied by improvements in bone marrow plasma cells. Within 2 years of Dr. Rajkumar's publication, physicians began prescribing thalidomide earlier in the course of multiple myeloma treatment.

KEY FACTS AND IMPACT

- CWR* provided \$300,000 to fund Phase I/II clinical trials testing thalidomide for multiple myeloma
- Thalidomide was **approved by the FDA for multiple myeloma in 2006**, and further industry investment led to Revlimid, a more potent and safer class of treatments
- Dr. Rajkumar published over 15 articles on these results allowing for broad patient use and has since become an internationally recognized leader in multiple myeloma

* Funded by CWR's founders, which became Partnership For Cures and now CWR.

