

according to Schering-Plough Health Care Products (Kenilworth, N.J.). Once a day, the user completely dissolves the powder in any common beverage (water, coffee, tea, juice). The company adds that more than twice as many women as men suffer from constipation. For more information, visit <http://www.miralax.com>. 152

## Tool for ob/gyns aims to reduce delivery room errors

The Intelligent Patient Record for Obstetrics (IPR<sub>OB</sub>) is designed to prevent medical errors and improve patient safety in the delivery room, according to E&C Medical Intelligence, Inc., a provider of risk reduction and clinical quality improvement systems and services.

Used in nearly 150,000 births to date, IPR<sub>OB</sub> is an advanced best practice and real-time risk management support tool for the OB that has shown statistical reductions in preventing critical clinical errors, says the company.

Functioning as a complete intelligent OB chart for both physicians and nurses, the software system proactively helps clinicians avoid clinical mistakes, while generating meticulous documentation. More than an electronic patient record, IPR<sub>OB</sub> contains a knowledgebase of more than 6,500 best practice

guidelines and rules in OB, which allows it to recognize a patient's clinical situation in real-time and offer prompts, reminders, suggestions, and alerts. The screen shown here, for example, shows critical actions and evaluations prompted by the diagnosis of severe preeclampsia in a patient in labor. For more information, visit the company Web site at <http://www.ecmed.com>. 153

## Tykerb approved for advanced breast Ca

The FDA has approved Tykerb (lapatinib, GlaxoSmithKline (Philadelphia, Pa.), a new targeted anti-cancer therapy to be used in combination with Xeloda, another cancer drug (capecitabine, Roche Labs, Nutley, N.J.), for patients with advanced metastatic breast cancer that's HER2 positive. The dual treatment is meant for women who have received prior treatment with other cancer drugs, including an anthracycline, a taxane, and trastuzumab (Herceptin).

Tykerb, a new molecular entity, is a kinase inhibitor that works through many pathways to deprive tumor cells of the signals they need to grow. A small molecule, it

enters the cell and blocks the function of this and other proteins. Its different mechanism of action allows the drug to work in some HER2-positive breast cancers that are no longer benefiting from trastuzumab.

The drug's approval was based on a randomized clinical trial of some 400 women with advanced or metastatic breast cancer that was also HER2 positive. Half the patients received Tykerb with capecitabine, while the other half received capecitabine alone. The group of patients receiving the combination had a statistically significant improvement in the time to tumor progression. The tumor response rate was also higher

in the arm receiving Tykerb with capecitabine (24% vs. 14% receiving capecitabine alone).

The more common side effects were diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, rash, and hand-foot syndrome (numbness, tingling, redness, swelling). A small percentage of patients reported generally reversible

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