In 1995, a clinical study of Immunex's recombinant TNF receptor marked a milestone in the battle against rheumatoid arthritis, which afflicts over five million patients worldwide, half of them in North America. ➤ One approach to treating this debilitating disease lies in blocking tumor necrosis factor, or TNF. Recombinant TNF receptor — which neutralizes TNF's ability to promote inflammation — was tested in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase II trial. The results showed significant improvement in swollen and painful joints and in joint counts (the sum of swollen and painful joints). The study's statistical power may allow for expedited development: Phase III trials with hundreds of patients rather than thousands, and a compressed timetable for FDA filing. ➤ Phase III studies are planned to begin mid-year, and the development program for this product is Immunex's top clinical priority in 1996.

results in the clinic

neonatal sepsis

LEUKINE® (yeast-derived GM-CSF), Immunex's flagship biologic, now offers hope for the 50,000 very low birth weight premature babies born annually in the U.S. Data from a Phase III study showed LEUKINE dramatically reducing the serious infections that contribute to these infants' high mortality rate. A pivotal Phase III study continues in 1996.

Immunex's flagship chemotherapeutic, NOVANTRONE® (mitoxantrone), has been shown to benefit men with hormone refractory prostate cancer, a late-stage disease that afflicts nearly 20,000 patients each year – patients who now have very few treatment options. Immunex plans an FDA filing of the positive Phase III trial results in early 1996. NOVANTRONE could be the first chemotherapy approved to alleviate this fatal disease.

prostate cancer

Immunex is widening its focus to infectious disease, now the #3 cause of death in America, by capitalizing on the ability of LEUKINE to stimulate macrophages – all-purpose scavenger cells that kill fungi and bacteria. LEUKINE is in Phase III trials to prevent infection in cancer surgery; the results could have implications for patients undergoing other high-risk surgeries, and for treatment of infections in AIDS patients, where studies are ongoing.

infectious disease