

Actress Julia Sweeney Offers Advice In A Free Video For Cancer Patients

(NAPSA)—More than 600,000 women will be diagnosed with cancer this year. While a cancer diagnosis is devastating, the side effects of cancer treatment—particularly chemotherapy—can be devastating, as well. Now there is help—a national educational video called *Finding Strength for Living*. The video was developed to educate women living with cancer on how to combat the harsh side effects of chemotherapy, including anemia and fatigue.

The video features presentations from an oncology specialist, breast cancer patient, exercise physiologist, nutritionist and oncology nurse who share strategies for managing chemotherapy side effects including anemia, fatigue, nausea, pain and emotional distress. In addition, 'Saturday Night Live' alumna Julia Sweeney presents segments from her award-winning one-woman show, "God Said, 'Ha!'" about her experiences as both a cancer survivor and caregiver.

The side effects of chemotherapy can be life-altering. According to a recent survey of cancer patients, the most debilitating and longest-lasting side effect of chemotherapy is the severe fatigue that is typically caused by anemia.

Chemotherapy-induced anemia occurs when the chemotherapy treatments deplete the number of oxygen-rich red blood cells. With fewer of the red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body, patients get fatigued. The fatigue caused by anemia can be so severe that simple, everyday tasks like cooking a meal or taking a shower become difficult.

"When I was undergoing treatment, I had no idea that many of the symptoms I was experiencing—particularly the fatigue—were treatable. I thought 'I have



cancer, I'm supposed to feel lousy,'" said Sweeney. "I want other women to know that there are things they can do to help minimize these side effects and get back to the business of living."

One treatment option for patients suffering from anemia is PROCRIT® (epoetin alfa), which increases red blood cell production, allowing more oxygen to circulate throughout the body resulting in reduced fatigue. Patients also should incorporate certain nutrient-dense foods into their diet, such as fruits, leafy green vegetables and lean red meat, to help ward off the harsh side effects of treatment. Exercise is also very important in order to maintain and increase strength.

To order a free copy of the *Finding Strength for Living* video, visit www.procrit.com or call 1-877-878-9767.

Finding Strength for Living is sponsored by Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., marketers of PROCRIT, a medication used to treat anemia associated with cancer chemotherapy for nonmyeloid malignancies. In studies, only diarrhea and edema occurred more often with PROCRIT than placebo. Full prescribing information is available at www.procrit.com.