



Crystal's Kraws Calls Genentech Dominant `Oncology Platform'

By Charles Stein and Michael Lysak

June 4 (Bloomberg) -- Jeffrey Kraws, co-founder of Crystal Research Associates, comments on Genentech Inc. and the development of cancer drugs.

Genentech, the world's largest maker of cancer-fighting drugs, said a charged-up version of its Herceptin drug for breast cancer shrank tumors in patients who failed to respond to other therapies. Kraws spoke in an interview.

On Genentech's latest news on cancer drugs:

``For Genentech, the news from the recent cancer meeting was mixed. It was great to see them cut the breast-cancer rate, but the study on Avastin said oncologists should use a lower starting dose and that could cut into their revenues. The drug can cost \$100,000 a year. Genentech could lose \$200 to \$250 million worth of revenue."

On what has hurt Genentech's stock:

``One of the things that have held back the stock is that some of their trials have taken longer than people expected. The upcoming data from their trials on ovarian cancer will show strong results. They are still the dominant oncology platform in the marketplace, but it could be a few years before we see those new drugs come to market."

-- With reporting by Lisa Kaplan in New York. Editor: Ward.

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