

Beating Cancer with “Vitamin C Chemotherapy”: New Studies

Many published reports in the medical literature now refer to intravenous (IV) vitamin C as a form of chemotherapy—the main difference being a lack of toxic side effects. And several recent studies further bolster the argument for using IV vitamin C in cancer therapy.

The first study tested the effects of pharmacologic doses of vitamin C—those doses readily achieved in an IV vitamin C treatment—and found that it had significant killing effects in all of the tested cancer cells. The vitamin C concentration was “easily achievable in humans”, according to the researchers. On the other hand, giving IV glutathione at the same time would nullify the effect. Glutathione is a powerful strategy for rebuilding the bone marrow and detoxifying the body, and it can be especially helpful after completing chemotherapy and/or IV vitamin C treatments. However, it should not be taken close to the time of receiving IV vitamin C, as reported in the 1 August 2011 issue of *Free Radical Biology & Medicine*.

Earlier this year, an animal study found that pancreatic tumors shrunk by 42% following high-dose vitamin C treatment, as reported in the 30 May 2011 issue of *Free Radical Biology & Medicine*. Pancreatic cancer is notoriously tough to treat by conventional methods. Two months earlier, researchers had concluded that IV vitamin C has been effective in treating cancer as well as in helping to knock out life-threatening infections in advanced cancer patients, as reported in the March 2011 *Journal of Translational Medicine*.

Last year, Dr. Mark Levine, chief of the U.S. National Institutes of Health's Molecular and Clinical Nutrition Section, reported that exposing tumors to vitamin C made them more vulnerable to the killing effects of at least four widely used chemotherapy drugs. Based on a series of animal studies and several well-documented human cases, Levine's research suggests that IV vitamin C may help combat malignant tumors that do not respond well to conventional treatment alone—lung, ovarian and pancreatic tumors, for example.

Dr. Levine's findings confirm what we have been seeing for the past 15 years at the Carolina Center for Integrative Medicine. On numerous occasions, we have observed that IV vitamin C enabled patients with advanced cancers to respond to chemotherapy drugs to which they had previously failed to respond. We therefore believe that it can enhance the effectiveness of cancer chemotherapy and pave the way for therapeutic success.