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Role of High Dose IV Ascorbic Acid in Treatment of Cancers

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cancer is still a challenge when it comes to its successful treatment and rehabilitation of patient. With chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery and latest cancer immunotherapy, we are still far away from curing the disease.

High dose ascorbic acid in treatment of Cancers has its roots in work of Prof Linus Pauling, way back in 1972.

This study included all kinds of Cancers, Ca Breast, Ca Lung, Adenocarcinoma Colon, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, etc. Further, this study is to expand the literature on role of high dose ascorbic acid on cancer progression and metastasis.

Methods: Thirty two patients were treated with high dose ascorbic acid therapy (1.5 g/kg body weight) with modifications in patients with renal insufficiency. No inclusion or exclusion criteria were applied in above study. Patients were divided in 5 categories: (a) Recently diagnosed who received only high dose ascorbic acid therapy; (b) Cancer patients who received complete conventional cancer therapy but with Recurrence; (c) Cancer patients who dropped out of conventional cancer therapy because of intolerable side effects of chemotherapy or radiotherapy; (d) Cancer patients on palliative therapy, end stage metastatic disease; (e) Drop out cases of high dose ascorbic acid therapy. Target plasma ascorbic acid concentration was >350 mg/ dl (Normal is 0.70-1.4 mg/ dl). Patients were checked for G6PDase status and all patients in study were not deficient for it.

Four patients were drop outs of high dose ascorbic acid therapy and were not included in the study. 15 of 28 patients were females and had Ca Breast, Ca Ovary, Ca Cervix, Ca Colon, Neuroendocrine metastasis stage II/III. 13 male patients suffered from testicular carcinoma, prostatic Ca, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Esophageal Ca, Bladder Ca and Liver Ca, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia.

Patients were given high dose ascorbic acid therapy for first 5-7 days, followed by 10gms of oral ascorbic acid for 3 weeks and such cycles for total 6 months.

Patients were followed at 1 year, 2 years and 5 years.

Results: There are 4 survivors till date, 2 males (Ca Prostate, Cat b, Testicular Ca Stage II, Cat b), 2 Females (Ca Breast Stage III, Cat b, NEM stage IV, Cat a) and they underwent complete high dose ascorbic acid therapy.

Conclusion: Cancer patients, who have undergone conventional cancer therapy, benefit from high dose ascorbic acid therapy as a supportive care. They benefit in terms of alleviation of cancer pain, generalized weakness, slowing down of progression of metastasis and improvement in cancer induced Anemia. High dose ascorbic acid therapy does not cure cancer. High dose ascorbic acid has a definitive place as supportive therapy in whole treatment plan of a cancer patient.

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