

A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR THE TREATMENT OF CANCER By Joe Demers, DVM, CVA, CVH

I would like to share with you an alternative cancer treatment protocol that I have been working on for the last ten years. I have used this protocol on hundreds of animal patients with diagnosis of cancer. Many of these patients outlived the conventional medical treatment life expectancy for their specific type of cancer.

First, I want to explain my views of cancer. Conventional medicine considers cancer to be a *localized* disease of mutated cell growth multiplying uncontrollably. As this mutated cell growth continues, a tumor or a mass is formed. The normal process of cell growth, replication, differentiation, and maturation becomes unregulated leading to further uncontrolled growth in the body (Walters, 1993).

I can agree with most of the above statement except for the idea of that the cellular process is only a localized disease. Cancer, to me and many others in the field of Holistic Medicine, is *not* a localized disease but a systemic disease. As the process of mutated cell growth occurs, a healthy immune system will recognize this uncontrollable growth and will elicit a response by sending macrophages to the region for cellular phagocytosis of the mutated cells (Walters, 1993). Also, the immune system promotes the release of endogenous compounds to inhibit the uncontrollable cell growth (Diamond, Cowden, Goldberg, 1997). This process occurs almost daily in healthy humans and animals. I feel that the disease of **cancer** is an **immune system deficiency** and is an **internal systemic disease process** with a localized lesion.

So therefore, the treatment for cancer must address the immune system deficiency and the internal disease process not only the localized lesion. Conventional medical treatment for cancer does what I call "**cut, slash and destroy**" therapy. The use of surgery to cut out the local lesion, then use radiation to **slash** away any left over local mutated cells, and then finally use chemotherapy to destroy any fast growing cells which hopefully will include the metastatic cells (Walters, 1993). This entire process is very suppressive to the immune system, which is the root of cancer disease.

The holistic treatment for cancer should focus on immune system stimulation, correction of the internal disease process, and destroy the mutated cellular growth with natural nontoxic compounds. This is the protocol that I have been using over the last ten years.

I would like to list some of the factors from the literature that contributes to cancer: sunlight, chronic electromagnetic field exposure, geopathic stress, sick building syndrome, ionizing radiation, nuclear radiation, pesticide/herbicide residues, industrial toxins, polluted water, chlorinated water, fluoridated water, and vaccines (Diamond, 1997; Dodds, 1995). As you can see the list is large!

In my research, I came across many different holistic protocols for the treatment of

cancer (Diamond, 1997). The protocol that I will describe does not require any exotic instruments or unusual treatment protocols. I tried to find products and compounds that anyone can use in a normal holistic practice. Here is my holistic protocol for the treatment of cancer.

I) DIET

I would like to give thanks to Dr. Gregory Ogilvie (1995) from Colorado State University, School of Veterinary Medicine for helping us to determine the proper diet for the cancer patient. In simple terms, the best diet is; low carbohydrates, moderate fats, *and* high quality proteins.

- a) Whole food diets are best. I recommend adding lightly cooked proteins and vegetables to the present diet of the canine patients. For felines, I recommend adding lightly cooked proteins to the diet. Try to discontinue dry food all together, because of the high grain base and the drying quality of the food. Dryness can contribute to the internal disease process from a Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) point of view.
- b) Lower the Carbohydrates. I try to reduce the carbohydrates to 0-25%. If any grains are added to the diet, I recommend whole grains only. If commercial food is going to be used, I try to reduce the amount of the processed food and add whole food proteins to the diet. I always say to the caregivers; "if you had cancer I sure hope you would eat homemade food and not something out of a bag, a box, or a can".
- c) Increase Proteins. I feel most commercial foods use poor quality proteins and destroy many of the amino acids with the high temperature cooking. I try to add medium rare to rare meats to the diet at about 35-50%. I do not recommend raw meats to begin a case because of possibility of upsetting the digestive system.
- d) Increase Fiber. I recommend adding lightly cooked vegetables to the diet. Vegetables can be an excellent source of fiber, as well as, adding other nutritional compounds to the diet This is much better than adding a fiber source such as husks from peanuts or other seeds.

n) GENERAL SUPPLEMENTS - Note: (I listed the phone numbers of companies at the end of this article)

The reason for the use of general supplements is to improve the overall health of the patient. Many of these supplements are known to improve the immune system as well as aid the body to eliminate free radicals.

The list of supplements can be quite large, so I will compress this list down to my favorites. Many of you may have your favorite supplements. Remember, we want to improve the general health of the cancer patient and many compounds can be used here.

a) Antioxidants. I recommend a multiple antioxidant product for the ease of dosing. The minimum list of ingredients should be: beta carotene, selenium, vitamin C, vitamin E. There are many other ingredients that could be used and you may have your favorite. Here are some products;

- 1) Antiox and Cell Advance - (Vetri-Science) I like these products. I use the recommended dose on the label.
- 2) AntiOxidant formula - (Pure encapsulations) This is a large capsule, so I use this product on medium to large dogs.

b) Greens. These products are comprised of algae, kelp, seaweed, alfalfa, and so on. Greens are very beneficial to help boost the thymus and thyroid glands which aids *the* immune system. Here are some products:

- 1) Animal Essentials - (Merritt Naturals)
- 2) Daily Greens - (Halo Purely for Pets)
- 3) Missing Link - (Designing Health)
- 4) Seameal - (Solid Gold)
- 5) PetiGreens - (Pet's Friend)
- 6) Udo's Choice - Pet Essentials for dogs or cats - (Flora, Inc.) This is my #1 green product because it is a plus product with greens, antioxidants, digestive enzymes, omega 3 fatty acids and a lot of organic ingredients.

e) Digestive Enzymes. These products play an important role in digestion. These products should be added to the diet. You may have your favorite. Here are some products:

- 1) FloraZyme EFA or LP - (Pet's Friend) Well made product
- 2) Prozyme - (Prozyme Products)

d) Omega 3 Fatty Acids. These products may be made with flaxseed oil or fish oils. These oils can have beneficial effects on the heart, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, skin, and most important, they slow down the cachexia (wasting disease) of the cancer patient (Ogilvie, 1995). The dose may vary because of digestive sensitivity. I try to get to 250 mg. of Omega 3 per 20 lbs. per day or higher. Here are some products:

- 1) Dream Coat - (Halo Purely for Pets)
- 2) Fish Oil/ Salmon Oil - (Many companies)
- 3) Flax/Borage Oil - (Pure encapsulations)
- 4) Opticoat II - (NAN)

e) Other Vitamin Therapy. There are other types of vitamin treatment used here. For example, Vitamin C Therapy (IV), B complex Injections (appetite), B12 injections (appetite) (Are Thoresen's Cancer Treatment, 1998), Vitamin A&D injections. These

therapies can be very helpful for the cancer patient.

HI) IMMUNE ENHANCING SUPPLEMENTS

PetLife Formula is more specific to aid the patient with cancer. It addresses some of the unique problems that are found in the cancer patient.

a) **Beta Glucans** These compounds enhance the activity of macrophages and natural killer (NK) cells which are responsible for the elimination of foreign cells (bacteria, viruses, mutated cancer cells, and so on). This process must become active for stimulation of the immune system to attack the cancer cells (Hunter, Gault, Jordan, 2001). Here some of the products that I use.

- 1) **Imm-Kine** - (Allergy Research Group) This product is a beta glucan from bacterial and fungal cell wall extracts. **Dose** — (same as below)
- 2) **MarcoForce Plus** — (ImmuDyne) This product has beta glucans and **IP6**. **IP6** is a natural substance from rice, oats, and living cells, which increases the enzyme glutathione reductase (GST). GST is responsible for detoxification of compounds in the liver. IP6 can support normal cellular function and activity of NK cells. **Dose** - (Small -1 BID, Medium -2BID, Large-3BID)

Oxygenators These products increase the oxygen levels in the blood stream as well as increase the oxygen utilization. Cancer grows in a hypoxic environment. If the oxygen level increases in the region of the cancer, the mutated cell growth decreases. This is very important to slow down the growth of the cancer and many times can place the cancer in remission. Oxygen therapy can also enhance the immune system and various enzyme systems which inhibit the growth of microorganisms and aids the destruction of tumor cells (Diamond, 1997, Walter, 1993).

- 1) **Dimethyglycine HCL (DMG)** - (Vetri-Science) This product has been around for a long time. I prefer **GIuta-DMG** by the same company. DMG benefits the oxygen utilization of the body and Glutathione promotes liver detoxification of many toxin compounds. This combination is great for the cancer patient Also, the product comes in animal friendly chewable forms. **Dose** - 200-300 mg of DMG daily per 25 lbs., this is the higher level which I use for the cancer patient.
- 2) **Ozone / Hydrogen Peroxide Therapy** - These therapies may produce toxic levels and need special equipment I do not use these because of the toxic possibilities and equipment needs. Some of you are familiar with Ozone therapy and that is all right for you. But, I wanted to present this protocol for anyone who is only using one or two modalities of holistic treatment in their

practices. I also, try to use nontoxic compounds in my treatment protocol for cancer patients.

c) **Anti- Angiogenesis** - This is the biggest word in cancer therapy today. Every pharmaceutical company is trying to make a product to inhibit angiogenesis. Angiogenesis is the process of the production of new blood vessels. This is what allows the cancer mass to grow. When the mutated cell growth begins, there are two things that happen: 1) hypoxia to the surrounding cells, and 2) inhibited cellular nutritional uptake. The surrounding cells to the cancer are starving for food and oxygen. So the body recognizes this by cellular communication and starts to send out new micro-blood vessels to the region. This only aids the cancer to continue to grow faster and larger. Anti-angiogenesis will inhibit the growth of these new blood vessels and inhibit the growth of the cancer (Boik, 2001; Diamond, 1997). I always use this product with an oxygenator, so the surrounding cells will less likely become hypoxic.

1) **VacuStatin** — (Allergy Research Group) This product comes from an extract of bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). In studies, this extract has demonstrated a 100 times stronger anti-angiogenesis activity than Shark Cartilage. **Dose** - (Small - 1 BID, Medium - 2 BID, Large - 3BID) hi fast growing tumors, I double these doses until remission occurs.

d) **Glandulars** These products are more commonly used by many of you. I will not go into great detail. We know that receiving the molecules of an organ can enhance mat organ's function, provide numerous nutrients, and support regeneration (Diamond, 1997). Thyroid glandulars enhance the function of the thyroid gland and so on.

Liver Extracts - (Many Companies) The Liver is the detoxifier of the body and supports the digestion system.

Thymus Extacts - (Many Companies) The Thymus plays a major in the function of the immune system.

Thyroid Extracts — (Many Companies) The Thyroid regulates metabolism which control energy production and helps the cells to eliminate waste.

I can go on and on here. But, I like to use combination products that would enhance the immune system, improve digestion, aid detoxification and promote wellness. The cancer patient cannot heal if the organs are not functioning well.

IV) IMMUNE ENHANCING HERBAL PRODUCTS

Herbal products are the **BIG GUNS** of the holistic cancer protocol. I feel that every patient has to be on the PetLife / LifeOne herbal formula to have a consistent success rate. John Boik (2001), an acupuncturist and researcher on natural compounds for the treatment of cancer, has written a book "Natural Compounds in Cancer Therapy". In his book, he has an excellent explanation of the cancer process and shows how to address each process with natural products. I have used many herbal products to treat cancer and found some of them to be of little use and others to be helpful. I would like to state from John Boik's book the seven clusters of procancer development. Not all cancer develops in this process, but the general scenario of cancer development occurs this way.

- 1) ***Induction of Genetic Instability.*** The cancer cell carries the genetic instability so that it can mutate and adapt to its environment.
- 2) ***Abnormal Expression of Genes.*** There are genes that have the function to produce proteins that promote cancer growth or inhibit cancer growth of the cell. The cancer cell has an abnormal amount of the promoting genes and too few of the inhibiting genes.
- 3) ***Abnormal Signal Transduction.*** Signal transduction is the process where signals come from the outside of the cell and travel to the nucleus to promote activity of the cell. In cancer cells, the volume of external signals increase, which favor proliferation and spread. Some of the sources of external signals are growth factor molecules (stimulate cell activities) and cell adhesion molecules (promote cell contact and uptake of information from the surrounding environment). In cancer cells, the signal transduction changes to increase growth factors (from extracellular reception or increase production intra-cellular) and to change the cell adhesion factors.
- 4) ***Abnormal Cell-to-Cell Communication.*** Normal cells communicate through signals that regulate the growth, proliferation, and death of the individual cell. In cancer cells, this communication does not occur and these cells act independently.
- 5) ***Induction of Angiogenesis.*** Angiogenesis is the growth of new blood vessels which is needed for cancer cells to proliferate and develop tumors. Note: As cancer cells start to grow, a local hypoxic environment develops which promotes angiogenesis, causes cell production of excessive lactic acid and burns glucose excessively. This results in increase of serum lactic acid and insulin levels.
- 6) ***Invasion and Metastasis.*** Cancer cells must be able to invade normal tissue for local growth as well as spread via blood and lymph circulation to other locations for distal growth.
- 7) ***Immune Evasion.*** Cancer cells evade destruction by shielding themselves from the immune system.

PetLife or LifeOne Formula is the only formula to inhibit all seven procancer events. The actions that inhibit the seven procancer events are:

- 1) **Reduce Genetic Instability.**
- 2) **Inhibit Abnormal Expression of Genes.**
- 3) **Inhibit Abnormal Signal Transduction.**
- 4) **Encourage Normal Cell-to-Cell Communication.**
- 5) **Inhibit Tumor Angiogenesis.**
- 6) **Inhibit Invasion and Metastasis.**
- 7) **Increase the Immune Response.**

LifeOne Formula - (PetLife) This formula is a combination of natural compounds and herbal extracts in a liposomal delivery system. I feel this is the best immune enhancing product on the market today. LifeOne / PetLife is my number **ONE** product The ingredients are:

Apigenin — A flavonoid from fruits and leafy vegetables, acts as an antioxidant, inhibits 6 of the 7 procancer events, inhibits lactic acid release (Boik, 2001; Habtemariam, 1997).

Chrysin - A flavonoid from the passion flower plant, which acts as an antioxidant, inhibits 6 of 7 procancer events, enhances Tumor Necrosis Factor, and inhibits abnormal hormone action (Boik, 2001; Yin, Giuliano, Van Herle, 1999).

Coriolus versicolor - A mushroom extract with a strong ability to stimulate the immune system by increasing the cytotoxicity of natural killer cells, inhibits 4 of the 7 procancer events, inhibits invasion of cancer cells (metastasis and local proliferation) (Boik, 2001; Kidd, 2000, Ooi, 2000).

33'Diindolymethane (DIM) - A phytochemical from cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, etc.) with strong anti-estrogen effects, inhibits adhesion, motility, and invasiveness of cancer cells, inhibits 5 of 7 procancer events (Riby, Chang, Firestone, Bjeldanes, 2000).

Resverstrol — Stilbene from grapes and wine which acts as an antioxidant, inhibits platelet aggregation, inhibits 6 of the 7 procancer events, inhibits insulin resistance, and inhibits abnormal estrogen action (Boik, 2001; Neilson, Ruch, Vang, 2000).

Tumeric Extract - The extract is Curcumin which acts as an antioxidant, strong anti-inflammatory effect, inhibits insulin resistance, inhibits cancer cellular proliferation, inhibits metastasis, inhibits 5 of the 7 procancer events (Arbiser, Klauber, Rohan, van Leeuwen, Huang, Fisher, et al, 1998; Boik, 2001; Dorai, Gehani, Katz, 2000).

Green Tea Extract (GTE) - A group of flavonoids which acts as an antioxidant, inhibits 6 of the 7 procancer events, In-vitro and In-vivo anticancer activity (Boik, 2001; Lyn-Cook, Rogers, Yan, Blann, Kadlubar, Hammons, 1999; Sabzuka, Sugiyama, Sonobe, 2000).

Quercetin - A flavonoid from fruits and vegetables which acts as an antioxidant, inhibits abnormal hormone activity, inhibits 6 of the 7 procancer events

(Boik, 2001; De, Chakraborty, Chakraborty, Das, 2000; Lamson, Brignall, 2000).

L-Selenium Methionine - The best utilized organic form of Selenium, acts as an antioxidant, inhibits 6 of the 7 procancer events, strong immune stimulation effect (Boik, 2001).

Liposomal Delivery System - A delivery system to maximize cellular uptake and prolong circulation action of the formula.

This updated formula uses only extracts and active ingredients. This allows for higher blood levels of all ingredients and better cytotoxic effect to the cancer cells.

Dose - By weight: 1-12 lbs. - 3cc, 12-25 lbs. - 5cc, 25-50 lbs. - 15cc (1/2 oz.) 50-100 lbs. - 3/4 oz., 100-150 lbs. - 1 oz. All given TID.

Note - I use a BID dose for easy administration at each 10 lbs - 1/4 TBS. (BID) The cost is moderate as compared to other products. The herbal taste of the product can be altered by adding a meat flavoring food or agent. I *always* start with small amounts and increase dose slow to help with taste adjustment.

V) HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy is the #2 **BIG GUN** of my holistic protocol for cancer treatment. I have no fear of using Homeopathy on the old, debilitated cancer patient because there are no chemical side effects. Homeopathy is a gentle and safe therapy. I use Dr. A.U. Ramakrishnan's approach to cancer treatment I recommend that you buy his book "A Homeopathic Approach to Cancer" (Ramakrishnan, 2001) for the complete listing of remedies for the different types of cancers. Dr. Ramakrishnan is a medical doctor with training in Homeopathy from the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital and earned his M.F. Horn in 1968. He has treated many cancer patients over the years and has developed a method of dosing of homeopathic medicine called the "Plussing Method". This is where you use a homeopathic remedy in repeated dosing. His approach uses 2 remedies in an alternating weekly method. The #1 remedy is specific for the cancer location or organ involved. The #2 remedy is Carcinisin. The Plussing Method uses 200C potencies pellets placed in eleven teaspoons of water (similar to LM dosing). The patient is given 1 teaspoon every 15 minutes for 10 doses. Then 10 teaspoons is added to the bottle and shaken for the next day dosing. The #1 and #2 remedies are alternated weekly. This sounds complicated and I found that my patient caregivers could not follow this method easily. So, I make the remedies up by placing a few pellets of the remedy in a 2oz. dropper bottle with distilled water and have the caregivers give 1/2 dropper TID or QID. I do explain it is better to give the doses close together 15-20 minutes apart. This is an animal friendly method and I get excellent compliance. Now for an example; a **Osteosarcoma** case; the #1 remedy would be **Helka lava 200C** (Dr. Ramakrishnan rates remedies according to frequency of use for different types of cancer) and the #2 remedy would be **Carcinosin 200C**.

I have treated over a hundred patients with this method and have had no reported aggravations. The gentleness of the water potencies and prescribing similar to situational prescribing (acute prescribing) seems to cause little problems with the high potency of the remedies. In an acute case prescribing repeating high potencies (**Arnica** for trauma or **Phosphorus** for bleeding) there are almost never any aggravations even if the patient is similar to an **Arnica** or **Phosphorus** patient. Clinically, I find this to be true for the Plusing Method of alternating remedies of Dr. Ramakrishnan. The *severity* of the cancer patient requires a *severe dosing* and *potency prescribing* to match the intensity of the disease process. I have had much better results using Dr. Ramakrishnan's method than I ever had using the standard classical homeopathic approach of using low potencies, LM potencies, or high potencies men waiting. I encourage you to try this method. You need to obtain his book for the list of remedies for each specific type of cancer.

VI) HOMOTOXICOLOGY

This is a method of treatment using combination homeopathic remedies. I use Homotoxicology to treat the internal disease process and to treat the symptoms of the case. For example: I would use *Phosphor-Hamaccord* or others for bleeding. The cancer patient usually has other symptoms related or non-related to the cancer disease. This method of treatment is gentle and safe. Because the cancer patients are on many supplements and herbal products, it is difficult to add another herbal product or conventional drugs to the case as problems develop. Homotoxicology gives me the tools to address problems that appear during the treatment of the cancer patient.

Homotoxicology is an excellent method of safe detoxification for the cancer patient. The entire concept of detoxification is the root of Homotoxicology. It is useful for organ intra-cellular and extra-cellular drainage, immunomodulation, and organ functional regulation. I can not go into great detail on the use of Homotoxicology here in this article, but I will list some companies in the reference list for the purchase of combination remedies. Here are some ideas for remedies;

a) Liver detoxification remedies

b) Immune support remedies

c) Symptom treatment remedies (for diarrhea, cough, bleeding, etc.)

You will need to purchase a few remedies to start with and you can always add more remedies later. I feel these remedies will be well worth the cost and be an excellent addition to your holistic cancer protocol. I place 1 tablet or a few drops of the liquid remedies in a 2 oz. dropper bottles fill with distilled water and prescribe 1/2 dropper TID. Also, you can combine 1 or 2 or even 3 remedies together into one bottle, which makes dosing easier.

CONCLUSION

In the **canine patients**, I *try* to use as many of the supplements that I listed above. I try to place as many of the supplement products into the food as possible, for ease of administration. I use **diet changes, supplements, immune enhancing herbal products, homeopathy, and homotoxicology**, all at the same time. I feel the window of treatment for success is very short and to place the cancer into remission requires aggressive therapy, so I throw the whole protocol at the case. The supplements are started at low levels and increase slowly once the digestion system adjusted to the changes. The homeopathic medicines, I start with the high potencies and never stop them. If diarrhea or digestive upset occurs, I discontinue the supplements and herbs but not the homeopathy. I use the homotoxicology remedies to treat any problem that develops.

In the **feline patient**, I try to use some of the supplements, mostly the immune enhancing ones. The feline generally does not like products added to their food. Also, I try not to alter the appetite in the feline patient I use **diet** (if only adding a protein to the food and decrease the amount of high gram food), **one or two of the immune enhancing supplements, immune enhancing herbal product** (even at a low dose it maybe helpful), **homeopathy, and homotoxicology** for symptom treatment. In some cases, all I can use is homeopathy and homotoxicology.

As the case progresses, I may reduce some of the supplements to a lower dose and drop some products out of the treatment protocol. The homeopathy is never stopped for the first year or only when I feel that total remission has occurred. Then the homeopathy is given once or twice weekly for another year. Then and only then, will I reduce the dose to once monthly.

The stress levels need to be reduced in the cancer patients. I recommend **NO** vaccines in cancer patients. Exercise the patient as much as possible. I recommend lowering the animal's family stress levels, especially in the feline patient The cancer patient is weaker and the natural social environment may lead the other members of the animal pack to attack this member. This is different in each case, so good communication with the caregiver is important. I recommend discontinuing monthly flea and tick treatment, if these products are being used. Pest control for the house needs to be discontinued, especially in the beginning of the case. Any emotional, mental, and physical stress to the cancer patient will reduce the chances of success in the holistic cancer treatment.

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Product List

Allergy Research Group - 1-800-545-9960
Crane Herb Company (Health Concern Herbs) 1-800-227-4118
D'Arcy Naturals -1-800-793-2729
Designing Health -1-800-774-7387
Flora, Inc. 1-800-446-2110
Halo Purely for Pets -1-800-426-4256
Heel, Inc. (Homotoxicology Products) - 1 -800-621 -7644
Institute of Tradition Medicine (L.T.M.) - 1-800-544-7504
Lane Labs - 1-800-510-2010
LifeOne or PetLife Formula -1-407-349-2241
Merritt Naturals -1-888-551-0416
Natural Animal Nutrition (NAN) - 1-800-548-2899
Pet's Friend-1-800-868-1009
PolyMVA for Pets - 1-88-547-8020
Prozyme Products, LTD. 1-800-522-5537
Pure Encapsulation -1-800-753-2277
Solid Gold -1-800-364-4863
Vctri-Science Laboratories -1-800-882-9993