Conference presentation

Viscum album: from high dilutions to phytotherapy

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Background: Besides conventional anticancer therapy, cancer patients use complementary and alternative medicine like the medicinal herb mistletoe (Viscum album L.), used in oral form or injections. For this condition Viscum album (VA) is also used in high dilutions, in injections, as in Brazil.

Aim: Our aim is to compare results of basic research about these two presentations: herbal medicine and high dilutions and to look for an eventual continuity of action between the molecular form (herbal medicine) and the informative one (high dilutions).

Method: About VA in herbal medicine: a lot of references in immunology, in particular those published by the team of Srini Kaveri and Stephan Baumgartner. About VA in high dilutions: the work in immunology of Aloiso Cunha de Carvalho and Leoni Bonamin published in a thesis. And then to compare those results with our practice as veterinarian on dogs and cats.

Results: VA in herbal medicine: from basic research results, we know that in low concentration, an immunostimulatory action is observed while in higher doses it is a cytotoxic activity. These two properties are found in our practical use of VA in dogs or cats: stabilization of the size of tumors for the low concentrations, necrosis of tumors and abscess for the high concentrations. VA in high dilutions (from D3 to D30): from basic research, an immunostimulating effect is observed. More exactly, on a murin model of tumor of Ehrlich, it is observed an improvement of quality of life, a reduction of the tumor immunosuppressive effect, an enlargement of local inflammations (Oedema) for all concentrations, but only 3D reduces tumor growth, without modifying local necrosis and the immunological parameters. In our practice, on two cases of osteosarcoma on dogs, we verify those properties using VA both in herbal medicine and in high dilutions.

Conclusions: From these results, both in basic research and in the practice, we should estimate there is probably a continuity of action from VA, in High Dynamised Dilutions (no more molecule), to VA in herbal medicine (molecular activity). From immunostimulation to cytotoxicity, from information to molecular activity. Does each Viscum album’s preparation touch the same level of the Immune System? The same cells? The same receptors? A lot of questions remain...

References


5) Saha C, and al. Differential Effects of Viscum album Preparations on the Maturation and Activation of Human Dendritic Cells and CD4+ T Cell Responses. Molecules. 2016 Jul 14;21(7)

6) Aloisio Cunha de Carvalho, ATIVIDADE ANTI-NEOPLÁSICA DE Viscum album (L) EM TUMORES EXPERIMENTAIS: REVISÃO CRÍTICA E ESTUDO EXPERIMENTAL EM TUMOR DE EHRLICH, Thesis Sao Paulo

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