

TREATMENT RESPONSE TO ORALLY ADMINISTERED VISCUM ALBUM EXTRACT – PRELIMINARY RESEARCH IN A NEW THERAPEUTIC ROUTE FOR HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNANCY

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In Integrative Oncology Viscum album treatment is a well known and brightly used treatment modality, mostly applicated as subcutaneous injection. Intravenous and intratumoral application is experienced more rarely. Data, published by the University of Bergen, Norge, referred to oral administration of mistletoe lectins and Viscum album extracts in animals and opened a new field of further research in humans. The presented data showed a dramatic dose-dependent hyperplastic growth of the small intestine in rats and mice feeded with mistletoe lectin I. Level of plasma TNF α and other cytokines increased significantly. Apoptosis in the tumors of animals was increased and in some cases complete tumor regression occurred. Mistletoe lectins I, II and III stimulated the production of Immunoglobulin A and G. In a transplantated murine Non-Hodgkin lymphoma orally applicated mistletoe lectin caused a dose dependent reduction of tumor weight. Our own data in 10 healthy volunteers orally treated with daily 200mg of an aqueous mistletoe extract from oak tree over a period of four weeks confirmed a time dependent increase of specific lectin I, II and III antibodies. In peripheral blood white blood cell count, neutrophils and lymphocytes increased at day 25 and showed a decline at the end of the experiment. These data encouraged the treatment of a 56 years old male with a atypic chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The patient denied subcutaneous injection, therefore oral treatment with an aqueous Viscum album extract from oak tree three times per week 200mg was initiated. It resulted in a normalization of peripheral blood count, the amount of prolymphocytic cells decreased and the soluble Interleukin-2 receptor level was reduced continuously. No other treatment took place. The enlarged lymphnodes became smaller. Quality of life was not decreased over the whole time before and after starting treatment. The oral intake of the extract had no side effects. In consequence other patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia were treated orally with Viscum album and showed decrease in white blood count. A women with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma experienced complete remission of an egg-shaped ingiunal lymphnode by oral mistletoe treatment.

These data for the first time prove adsorption and effectiveness of orally applicated Viscum album and necessarily justify further clinical research.

