



Treatment of advanced breast cancer with mistletoe injections

- a study from Egypt

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In an open multicenter study in nine oncology centers in Egypt, in the late nineties, a study of 26 breast cancer patients with advanced disease was carried out. All conventional treatments (surgery, chemotherapy, hormone or radiation therapy) were exhausted. Only one patient had not previously been treated. 11 were premenopausal, 15 were postmenopausal. 11 patients had metastases to liver, lung, lymph system, bone and skin. These Egyptian women were now treated with one weekly mistletoe injection of 60 mg *Viscum Fraxini* (i.e. mistletoe from the ash tree), and this was injected under the skin around the tumor in the breast or in the tumor. There were not given any other medication except Paracetamol, which was given only if a possible febrile response to the mistletoe exceeded the patient's subjective tolerance level.

The results were evaluated after 16 weeks, and in the pre-menopausal group 9 of the 11 patients responded with a reduction in the primary tumor size of an average of 51% (17-96%). In one patient the tumor was unchanged, and in the last one, there was progression.

In the postmenopausal group 2 patients had a complete remission, i.e. the tumor in the breast disappeared completely, 12 patients had a reduction of primary tumor in the breast of an average of 67% (from 17 to 98.5%) and one patient was unchanged.

This result is very impressive, only 1 of these 26 patients the primary tumor progressed.

One of these patients, who was over 70 years old, was inoperable before the mistletoe treatment but after 28 weeks of treatment with mistletoe, the tumor was so small that she could undergo surgery. The patient was still alive 136 weeks after the start of the study, and now received a weekly maintenance dose of 20 mg *Viscum Fraxini*.

18 of these 26 patients continued with the mistletoe injections after the 16 weeks and continued for 18 to 136 weeks and were examined at intervals. Here, the average response rate for the primary tumor in the breast was 77.8%.

Of the 11 patients with metastases in different organs, there were 3 with lung metastases. In one of these patients, the metastases in the lungs disappeared completely. In the other two the metastases were reduced in size. In the latter two cases, though, bone metastases appeared – which means a so-called mixed response. Lymph node metastases were found in 5 postmenopausal patients. These lymph nodes all disappeared! In one postmenopausal patient both bone- and liver metastases disappeared. In another patient with liver metastases, these were reduced in size during the treatment, but in turn, the patient developed brain metastases after 66 weeks, which is a mixed response. One patient developed bone metastases during treatment.

With respect to quality of life, this followed the same pattern as in other studies. Up to 30% performance gain, pain reduction, appetite stimulation, better night's sleep. There were no reports of any side effects.

These results were obtained with one weekly mistletoe injection per week – in today's price USD 125 per month.

This study is a further example of the excellent effect of mistletoe in the treatment of cancer. This study also demonstrates that injections near or in the tumor give better results.