About Ultraviolet Light Therapy

Ultraviolet light is known to have antibacterial properties and has been used to sterilize medical equipment.

The healing properties of ultraviolet light were first demonstrated in the 1880s by Niels Ryberg Finsen.

He reportedly provided ultraviolet radiation therapy to patients with skin disease or mucous membrane disease. Finsen and his followers are said to have treated more than 2,000 patients with a success rate of 98%. For that he earned the Nobel Prize in 1903.

In the 1930s, ultraviolet therapy was used as a blood treatment. Physicians would essentially “clean” a patient’s blood by withdrawing a sample, irradiating it with ultraviolet light to kill unwanted particles in the blood, and then re-injecting it back into the patient. The cleansing process was believed to lower infection levels. It also had a side effect of strengthening the patient’s immune system.

From there, ultraviolet light therapy was used successfully in California to cure multiple cases of polio. Despite the positive outcome of the treatment, it was largely abandoned by the medical community once antibiotics were developed.

In the therapy, a small amount of blood, from 60 to 250 CC’s, is drawn from the patient and passed through a chamber where it is exposed to ultraviolet light. The blood is then returned to the patient. To those unfamiliar with the therapy, it’s surprising and counter-intuitive that exposure of such a small amount of blood to UV light can affect the whole patient, even granted that UV light is a known microbe-killer. The amount of blood exposed, and presumably the microbes killed, are a tiny percentage of the whole.

It’s reported that, once stimulated by a UV irradiation of the blood, the immune system continues its activity for hours and sometimes days after the treatment. The number of treatments needed is determined by factors such as the state of the patient’s immune system and the length and seriousness of the illness. The usual treatment is about 30 minutes, and is almost painless.

According to Dr. William Campbell Douglass, II, ultraviolet light therapy has been proven in extensive studies and has a “fabulous” record of safety. He reports it has eased the suffering and prolonged the lives of thousands of patients with cancer and other ailments and that he has personally used it in his practice with excellent results.

In 2007, researchers at Newcastle University in the U.K. devised a way to use ultraviolet light to activate antibodies that then target specific tumors. They begin by coating the surface of an antibody with an organic oil that is photocleavable. This prevents the antibody from being activated within the patient until it is specifically illuminated by ultraviolet light. When that happens, the activated antibody binds to T-cells, triggering them to target the surrounding tissue.

When the antibodies are activated near a tumor, the tumor is killed. This means ultraviolet light therapy can be used to steer antibodies directly toward killing cancer tumors, thus sparing attack on healthy tissue and resulting in fewer side effects.

Professor Colin Self, one of the lead researchers in the study, describes the treatment as ” … the equivalent of ultra-specific magic bullets. This could mean that a patient coming in for treatment of bladder cancer would receive an injection of the cloaked antibodies. She would sit in the waiting room for an hour and then come back in for

treatment by light. Just a few minutes of the light therapy directed at the region of the tumor would activate the T-cells causing her body's own immune system to attack the tumor."

Today, ultraviolet light therapy is said to be a common treatment for multiple ailments in Russia, where drugs are expensive and hospital budgets are severely limited.

The American College for Advancement in Medicine (ACAM) retains a list of doctors who offer this treatment. **SOURCE: Alternative Cancer Research Institute**

Further Reading & References

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