

Patient Fact Sheet

ANTINEOPLASTONS

ANTINEOPLASTONS are small proteins and other organic compounds that are either found naturally in the body or chemically produced. They were discovered in the 1970's by a cancer researcher named Stanislaw Burzynski. They are one of the most well known alternative therapies for patients with cancer that has not been successfully treated with standard treatments.

WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

Antineoplastons are an alternative treatment for cancer, and have also been used for Parkinson's disease, sickle cell disease and kind of anemia called thalassemia. All of these uses are experimental.

WHAT HAVE STUDIES SHOWN?

In several small studies of adults with terminal cancer, significant numbers of patients had remissions (their tumors decreased) or stabilization (their tumors stopped growing for a time). However, more studies are needed to find out if antineoplastons are a effective treatment for cancer compared to other medicines.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects are common but usually mild. They include upset stomach, gas, muscle pain, fatigue, headaches, chills, fevers, and a strong body odor.

WILL THEY INTERFERE WITH MY OTHER MEDICATIONS OR MY MEDICAL CONDITION?

- ◆ There have been no studies of antineoplaston treatment for other diseases. However, a few patients who had Parkinson's disease as well as cancer had an improvement in their Parkinson's symptoms during the treatment.
- ◆ There are no studies of antineoplaston treatment in children or women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

WHAT ARE TYPICAL DOSAGES?

Antineoplastons are given over long periods of time (several months to over a year). Depending on the study, they are given by mouth or in daily shots or IVs.

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WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- ◆ Always tell your doctor or nurse practitioner if you are using alternative medicine, and before starting any new alternative treatment. Your health care provider needs to know everything you are taking to help you make decisions about your health care. Some alternative treatments can cause problems with other medications, herbs, or dietary supplements.
- ◆ Antineoplaston treatment is expensive: it costs several thousand dollars per month, and it is not covered by most insurance plans because it is experimental.
- ◆ Antineoplastons are only available in a few places, as part of experimental studies.