

Re: Tagamet good for cancer?

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On Mon, 30 Oct 2006 09:12:06 -0500, jonboy42@xxxxxxxx (J W) wrote:

I've been doing some reading on this heartburn drug and there seems to be a lot of evidence that it has a strong anticancer effect.

Any thoughts on this? Is it something to look at or hooley. If it's hooley, why so.

Tagamet a.k.a. cimetidine is an immunomodulator and potentially useful at least for those people whose T-helper/T-suppressor ratio is too low due to histamine induced T-suppressor cells. Here some information and references about immunomodulatory action of cimetidine:

Evaluation of Histamine₂-Receptor-Antagonists (H₂-Antagonists)
<http://dacc.bsd.uchicago.edu/drug/Bulletins/n1096.html>

"H₂-antagonists have been found to improve the function of various parts of the immune system.(6,7) There have been anecdotal reports of the usefulness of histamine-antagonists in the treatment of various cancers refractory to standard treatments (eg, lung cancer, malignant melanoma). The proposed mechanism of immunomodulative effects is the inhibition of suppressor T-lymphocyte activity, an increase in interleukin-2 production, and an enhancement of natural killer cell activity. Hahm and colleagues compared the in vitro effects of cimetidine, ranitidine and famotidine on peripheral blood mononuclear cells in normal controls and patients with gastric cancer. They concluded that cimetidine had the strongest and famotidine had the weakest immunomodulating effect. Cimetidine was found to proliferate peripheral blood mononuclear cells and increase cytotoxic capability. Famotidine had no effects on lymphoproliferation and cytotoxicity. Ranitidine and famotidine were also inferior to cimetidine in inhibiting suppressor T-cell activity, increasing interleukin-2 production and enhancing natural killer cell activity. The authors speculated that this difference may be due to the fact that famotidine and ranitidine lack the imidazole nucleus common to histamine and cimetidine."

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Griswold DE, Alessi S, Badger AM, Poste G, Hanna N.
Inhibition of T suppressor cell expression by histamine type 2 (H2)
receptor antagonists.
J Immunol. 1984 Jun;132(6):3054-7.
PMID: 6202771 [PubMed – indexed for MEDLINE]