

Therapeutic Approaches in Oncology - Where Do We Come From and Where Do We Go?

Dr. Martin Flür, MD

Helios Clinic Schwelm, Schwelm, Germany

Abstract:

Cytostatics (Greek: cyto, = cell, static = to stop, singular: cytostatic) are natural or synthetic substances which block cell growth or, rather, cell division. They are often used to treat cancer (chemotherapy) and sometimes to treat autoimmune diseases.

During the First World War, doctors of medicine discovered that the warfare agent sulphur-lost (dichloroethylsulphide) has an antiproliferative (cell growth blocking) effect. After the war, the less toxic nitrogen-lost (= mechlorethamine) was developed and used as the first cytostatic in medicine in 1942. Nitrogen-lost is still licensed and allowed for medical purposes in the USA. Furthermore, derivatives of nitrogen-lost are part of many modern oncologic protocols.

Cancer is the second frequent cause of death in Germany after cardiovascular diseases. Statistics present the types of cancer which result in the highest mortality rates among women and men. Every second male and 43 per cent of all the females can expect to be diagnosed with cancer. (*Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden; German Cancer Research Center*)

The WHO found out that ischaemic heart diseases and apoplectic stroke are responsible for the highest number of deaths worldwide. In seventh place worldwide is lung cancer which took 1.5 million lives. Both types of cancer are highly aggressive and lead to death very quickly. The reason for lung carcinoma mostly is smoking. As people continue to lead longer lives, both the chances to get cancer and the need for good oncological therapy are increasing. This fact also carries a high ecological relevance because of the not catabolised cytostatic active substances and metabolism or metabolites.

Up to now, we learn more and more to understand the importance of the immune system in the struggle against cancer.

In his fight against cancer the human being needs a strong immune system in order to win this challenge.

Despite all efforts, conventional oncological therapies still have various side effects. This fact emphasizes the important role of complementary therapies.

One of the most effective possibilities to support the immune system is a viscum (mistletoe) therapy.