

Is Chemotherapy Evidence Based on Double Blind Placebo Controlled Trials?

Most conventional doctors would not even think of using something that was not rigorously tested in the gold standard of the double blind placebo controlled trial study. Yet most doctors and nearly all of their patients would be shocked to learn that chemotherapy drugs are not based on this gold standard. In fact, according to Jerry Tennant MD in his book *Healing is Voltage*, the FDA will not allow chemotherapy drugs to be tested against a placebo. There is only one Medline study that compared chemotherapy with “supportive care”. It was a Canadian study. The question must be asked then why will the FDA not allow chemotherapy to be double blind placebo controlled? The one study published, comparing Docetaxel vs Supportive Care found that Docetaxel gave a 7.5 month survival rate while supportive care gave 4.6 months. Therefore the chemotherapy group lived an average of 3 months longer than supportive care. The side effects of this extra 3 months was hair loss, bone marrow damage (four deaths), lung toxicity and serious lung damage (21%). Was the trade off of 3 extra months worth the side effects including not being able to breathe? Of course, the cost of treatment was not included.

As for the cost of chemotherapy, a panel of cancer experts has ruled for a second time that Avastin, the best-selling cancer drug in the world, should no longer be used in breast cancer patients. In three unanimous votes, the six members of the FDA oncology drug panel voted that Avastin is ineffective, unsafe and should have its approval for breast cancer withdrawn. Associated Press updated 6/29/2011

Cost: \$88,000 per year with no effect. \$88,000 times 40,000 breast cancer cases = loss of \$3,520,000,000 potential dollars at stake.