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On January 12, 2005 CNN reported the latest death toll for the tragic tsunami that struck more than 11 countries on December 26th, 2004 to be at least 150,000 dead. According to the National Cancer Institute 170,000 Americans will die this year from lung cancer alone. The tsunami is a human tragedy because it struck its deadly blow quickly and without warning. Cancer, on the other hand, does not have to be a tragedy and can be prevented through a proactive cancer preventative lifestyle and early detection.

According to the U.S. Statistical Abstract, cancer ranks as the 2nd leading cause of death in this country, which means that one out of every four deaths in the U.S. is cancer related. Once cancer is detected one must choose a form of treatment involving conventional methods, non-conventional methods or some combination of the two. However, regardless of treatment, all doctors agree that the prognosis for survival of any cancer directly relates to how early the cancer is detected.

This article discusses 1) a brief overview of cancer, 2) the primary causes of cancer, and 3) how the Anti-malignin Antibody Serum (AMAS) blood test can be used to aid in the earliest detection of cancer.

Our brief overview of cancer must begin by understanding the cell, which is the basic unit of life. The body is composed of over 100 trillion cells. Inside each cell is a nucleus that contains a unique master blueprint called DNA, which is specific for each individual. No two individuals’ DNA, with the exception of identical twins, is exactly alike. DNA contains information much like the information found on the blueprint of a house. It is from DNA that ANY cell in the body can be made. This means that DNA found in the nose cells of a person is exactly the same DNA found in the colon cells of the same individual.

It can be jokingly stated that the body has the capability of growing a colon out of its nose at any time. The reason this does not happen is because, although the nose cells contain information on how to grow a colon, the sub-portions of DNA (called genes) related to growing colon cells is thankfully turned off—this is called cellular specialization.

Cellular specialization basically means that once cells become a mature specialized cell type (such as nose cell or colon cell) they will only genetically make more nose cells or colon cells respectively, even though they all contain the same DNA.

Simply put, cancer is a disease process that occurs when a cell (a nose cell) that is supposed to produce another cell of its same type (another nose cell) before it dies produces a cancer cell instead. There are approximately 100 different types of cancers that can attack a human being anywhere in the body and at any time. Once a cancer cell is produced it has the capability of producing localized tumors, and in the later stages spreading to other parts of the body via the lymph and circulatory systems.

The primary causes of cancer include both genetic and environmental factors. Simply stated, cancer is induced by anything that has the capability of causing a specialized cell to produce a cancer cell.
When specifically speaking about the genetic factors involved with cancer, Dr. A.G. Knudson, M.D., Ph.D., of the Fox Chase Cancer Center states only about 5% of all cancer is directly related to genetic factors. Jeffrey Bland, Ph.D. states that 75 percent of an individual’s health after age 40 is dependent upon what the person has done to his or her genes, not to the genes themselves. Therefore, the good news is that the greatest determining factor in the development of cancer is not our genetics, but rather what we expose our DNA and genes to—namely the environment.

Regardless of our genetics, all of us will eventually develop some form(s) of cancer if we are exposed to enough cancer inducing environmental factors for a long enough period of time. The environmental factors that induce cancer formation include 1) the lifetime level ambient radiation we are exposed to on a daily basis (such as the sun and tanning beds) and total amount of radiation we are exposed to on a diagnostic basis (such as x-ray and mammogram), (2) the external chemical environment in which we live (such as pesticides and industrial chemicals) and (3) the internal chemical environment of the body determined largely by the chemicals we choose to put into our bodies (such as cigarette smoke, alcohol and hormone replacement therapy).

All doctors agree that early detection of cancer is of the greatest importance in determining the likelihood of cancer survivability. Therefore, the earlier cancer is detected the better the odds are at surviving both the cancer treatment and the cancer itself.

The Anti-malignin Antibody Serum (AMAS) blood test is a valuable clinical diagnostic tool that is routinely used in our clinic for the purpose of detecting the presence of cancer at its earliest stages.

Once a cell in the body becomes cancerous it begins to secrete an antigen called malignin. Developed and researched by Oncolab, Inc., the AMAS test is unique in that it measures the level of cancer antibody called Anti-malignin Antibody (AMA). The unique feature of screening for cancer in this way is that AMA rises in the body regardless of cancer cell type! Therefore, regardless if the location of the cancer is breast tissue, prostate gland, stomach, liver, esophagus, etc., the body begins to manufacture AMA in a battle against the cancer cell(s), which causes AMA levels to rise.

According to the medical literature reported by Cancer Detection and Prevention 18(1): 65-78 (1994), AMAS has a sensitivity and specificity of detecting the presence of active cancer in the body at a rate of 95% on the first test and >99% of detection on repeat testing. AMAS is also capable of detecting the presence of cancer 1 to 19 months before any tumor is visible. Therefore, at Natural Health Center we encourage our patients age 30 and over to consider running an annual AMAS blood test as a screening tool for early cancer detection.

The AMAS test is not a stand-alone test for cancer—it will not determine what type of cancer is active in the body. It will only tell if a patient has active cancer in their body. Other diagnostic testing and workup is necessary to determine the type of cancer when an AMAS test is positive.

The National Cancer Institute states that taking appropriate preventative lifestyle measures can prevent most cancers. However, in the continued fight against cancer and in early detection, AMAS can bring peace of mind, which is worth its weight in gold.

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