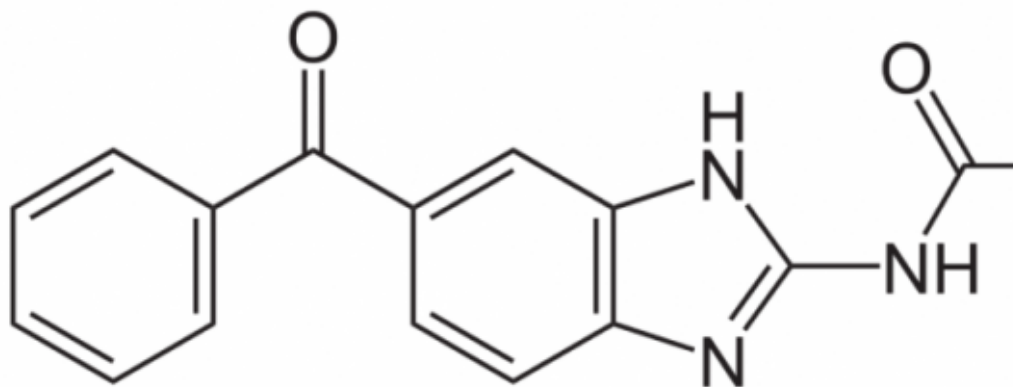


Mebendazole: From Pinworm Cure To Cancer C

By Dr. Craig A. Maxwell - Aug 11, 2015



This is a remarkable story about a little pill that began use as a worm treatment for children, medicine to treat, and prevent, cancer.

Most of us are familiar with this medication. It is mebendazole (MBZ), but is better known as Pridiphen. It is usually used to treat pinworms, roundworms, whip worms, and hookworms. acquire these parasites (adults can as well), and the whole family is given a prescription for n written for this medication many times over the past 32 years for the treatment of these para

Mebendazole has been in common use for over forty years as an antiparasitic, and has a good fairly inexpensive, at about 2-3 dollars a pill.

But here's the amazing news! This little pill, known for its good safety profile and few side effects, treat, and prevent, cancer.

The fact is we all get cancer in our lifetime.....probably many times. Of the millions of new ce

each day, some are “mutant cells” and have the ability to cause cancer. Our immune system quickly destroys these abnormal cells, as long as our immune system is in optimal shape. Sometimes we get past our natural defense system. This is why I write so much about diet, lifestyle, and natural ways to boost the immune system, especially when it comes to boosting natural killer (NK) cells.

Mebendazole kills cancer cells, even those that are unresponsive to other chemotherapy, without harming normal cells, and with little or no side effects.

Scientists have long known how MBZ works to kill parasites, and as it turns out, cancer cells have a lot in common with parasites. MBZ selectively targets the spindles of both, while leaving healthy cells unharmed.

What is a cellular spindle? Great question! Spindles are a type of scaffold-ladder system in our cells called microtubules. This network of rigid microtubules inside a cell give shape and structure. Spindles also transfer various molecules to different parts of the cell, functioning like an internal highway. However, the most vital function of spindles is cell division.

Here is a short video animation of how spindles work:

Here is a video of the microtubules, showing how they assemble and disassemble. What an amazing design!

Remember, mebendazole is highly selective. It interferes with, and inhibits, the assembly of spindles in cancer cells and parasites. This prevents the ability of the cells to divide. The cells then die due to a process called apoptosis.

What Is Cancer?

Back to my “mutant” analogy. While in pre-med at The University of Cincinnati, I was fortunate to work at Keebler here in Cincinnati (Fairfax), Ohio. I worked third shift, operating a huge machine called a cookie press. As the cookies came down the conveyor belt to me, they were inspected by numerous individual inspectors. The inspectors were quite good at recognizing, and grabbing, less-than-perfect cookies and removing them from the production line.

they reached my trusty Sig Packer and me. This is similar to how our immune system works to abnormal cells. After all, we make millions of new cells daily, and a few are bound to be rejected.

When a cell divides, our perception is that the two resulting cells are exactly identical. This is not true. The process of copying DNA is not perfect. Errors occur, but they are not usually serious. If there are errors in its DNA code, the cell will not be able to reproduce and the errors die within that cell.

Human cells have a maximum number of times they can reproduce themselves before accumulating errors. This is known as the Hayflick limit. Most scientists agree that this number is around 50.

The lifespan of a cell is determined by the length of a string of molecules attached to the ends of chromosomes. These are known as telomeres. Think of them as long shoestrings with pieces that may break off as they get worn out. They get shorter with time. The longer a shoestring is, the longer it can last when it is new. And so it is with telomeres.

Cancer cells are odd in that they have damaged DNA code. This results in the activation of telomerase, which allows them to regrow. The Hayflick limit does not apply to cancer cells, so this mutation makes cancer cells immortal. Cancer is then able to do its damage by outnumbering and outliving normal cells.

Present efforts to fight cancer involve attempting to isolate the cancer cells and selectively remove them. As they have invaded normal tissue, this presents a problem. Surgery sometimes stimulates the immune system, resulting in a temporary relapse and regrowth. Conventional chemotherapy and radiation therapy are not enough to protect healthy cells, so "collateral damage" is often a major problem.

That's why mebendazole is different. It does not kill the cancer cells with poison. It keeps the immune system active.

From Antiparasitic To Cancer Treatment

Several years ago, researchers at Johns Hopkins University were trying to give mice cancer to study the disease. The goal was to create cancer in mice and then attempt to cure it. In one group of mice, cancer cells were not created. The scientists were mystified. It was later found that this group of mice had been given mebendazole.

Three years later, trials were underway for the treatment of brain cancer in humans with mebendazole. The new use was discovered, as many treatments are, quite by accident. An [article dated May 5, 2014](#), recounts this well.

But a growing number of integrative doctors were already aware of this, and had been using “off-label” for several years with very good results!

Mebendazole was first made by Janssen Pharmaceutical in 1968. By 1972 it was in wide use and sold under the name Vermox. It was inexpensive then, and still is today.....if you can get it. On October 1, 2015, Janssen Pharmaceuticals announced they would cease manufacture of this product. It is no longer available from the manufacturer in the U.S. No reason was given for the discontinuation. Interestingly, Johnson & Johnson markets it throughout much of the world for the treatment of parasites, where it is widely available and inexpensive.

In the U.S., a compounding pharmacy is probably the best option. The cost averages around 2 dollars for a compounded 100 mg. capsule.

No matter where you order it, a prescription from your doctor will be needed. Doctors are able to write prescriptions for off-label use if they are comfortable doing so. An integrative physician may be more likely to be aware of, and embrace, this treatment. Mebendazole may also be used along with traditional chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation under your doctor's direction.

Here is a [clinical trial and ongoing research involving mebendazole from the NCBI](#) you may find interesting.

Now that this little pill is potentially more valuable than ever, a company by the name of Intracellular Therapies Inc. acquired worldwide rights to the cancer application of mebendazole, which is in preclinical development as a cancer treatment. Please be sure to [read about it here](#).

A Prevention As Well?

Through its inhibition of microtubules in cancer cells, mebendazole could be considered a preventive measure as well. Remember, in the above mentioned study at Johns Hopkins University, cancer could not grow after they had been given mebendazole. I also believe it could be used periodically to “purge” the body of and pre-cancerous cells which have yet to gain cell mass through uncontrolled growth.

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