

Initial studies on the benefits of high-dose
Vitamin C for cancer patients were conducted
in the 1980s. Derivatives of Vitamin C were
orally ingested. The lack of positive results
forced scientists to dismiss the notion.
However, more recent studies on the
intravenous use of Vitamin C for cancer
patients have shown more promising results.

According to the National Cancer Institute:
these studies show improved quality of life for
cancer patients by minimizing pain and
protecting normal tissues from toxicity caused
by chemotherapy. Additionally, vitamin C
showed synergistic effects when combined with
radiation and standard chemotherapies.

At Innovative Medical Associates, we believe the body is put together in such a way that everything is biochemical and molecular in nature. The billions of cells within our body continually strive to make their way back to homeostasis, the body's optimal state of equilibrium. If we want to effectuate change, we must think about what is going on concerning the journey of the cells. So, reregulating the body will take time because each cell must make a journey, or complete a cycle, to reach its optimal result. And then, other cells replicate those results. This concept is always paramount in my mind when treating patients.

When working with blood, we always need to look at everything in this way. If a patient's conditions have been debilitating or chronic, then six months to allow those cells the time they need to complete this journey does not seem like too much to expect if we want to see significant improvement.

We want to be holistic in approach, but we also need to think myopically so we can create a more immediate positive change for the patient. When patients see and feel initial results, they are better inclined to follow through with their treatment plan to achieve overall desired health goals.

Continued hydration may sometimes lead to changes within weeks, but significant, longer-term results will take more time. We are not changing just one thing; we are changing patterns within several cells at once.

"It is so rare for physicians or surgeons to understand that there is a need for something like this, something that can maintain my quality of life while I undergo their recommended treatments."

-Julie

Julie, a full-time professional was diagnosed in her late fifties with Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

This type of cancer can be very aggressive and often harder to treat.

Julie had a double mastectomy and had opted for chemotherapy. Although she knew it would be hard to undergo this type of treatment, She was determined to battle the cancer head on without completely depleting her energy or diminishing her quality of life while doing so. She still worked full-time and was very active, so Julie was on a mission to be in better shape from an immune standpoint.

Chemotherapy drugs often destroy the good cells along with the cancerous ones. Many side effects of cancer can also stem from the treatment itself, not the condition. Julie was not looking to replace traditional medicine but seeking ways in which her body could work in concert with it. Julie researched the benefits of vitamin C hydrotherapy for cancer patients.

Her surgeon shared Julie's enthusiasm for complementary treatment and referred her to our practice.

Vitamin C is an overall master vitamin. The benefits of vitamin C have been very well documented since Linus Pauling, an early 20th century biochemist, first discovered its medicinal properties. It has been a highly effective treatment and prevention for scurvy, a rare condition that occurs due to extreme vitamin C deficiency. However, most research has failed to mimic Pauling's results because scientists and physicians have mainly studied the oral use of vitamin C. I believe that IV hydration is a better delivery system for vitamins, which are more commonly available biomedically for that use today. IV delivery achieves greater results because we can administer the appropriate dosage for a patient while providing a direct hit of the benefits of any vitamin into their bloodstream.

Vitamin C hydration therapy is important for cancer patients, especially for those receiving chemotherapy. Vitamin C is a key ingredient on a cellular level because it acts as a free-radical scavenger as well as a potent antioxidant. It gives the cells some needed fuel when it is used appropriately. Vitamin C can also assist the liver to function more efficiently as this organ is often overtaxed by the chemotherapy drugs. Antioxidants including alpha lipoic acid and glutathione can also help to support the liver. How or why we choose these ingredients depends upon the patient and where they are in their treatment process.

There is an art and method to extracting the right ingredients to achieve the best results.

Compounding pharmacists must extract vitamins and minerals under highly sterile conditions for intravenous use. There are manufactured compounds, as well as dozens of natural origins for Vitamin C including corn, rosehips, and citrus. I prefer to only use vitamin C that has been extracted from food sources.

I particularly like tapioca and cassava extractions for cancer patients because I want less sugar in the compound, which is often highly present in citrus.

Radiologists use PET scans, or Positron Emission Tomography, to find cancer cells or tumors in the body. PET scans are performed using a specific type of dye that has a sugar molecule attached to it. The sugar molecule is key to locating cancer cells because they will seek it out and adhere to the molecule. This is why cancer is often missed on other types of scans. Although the sugar molecules used in PET scans are harmless, their use offers us a clue to at least one way in which cancer might spread. Since scientists discovered how sugar can act as a fuel for certain cancer cells, I strongly encourage patients diagnosed with it to avoid sugar in their diet.

"I get up in the morning and feel like I have purpose...not just for myself, but for others who rely on me.

And that just means everything to me."

- Julie

Over the year Julie spent in getting chemotherapy, she noticed the other patients would begin to enter the treatment room bent or slumped over at some point. They did not seem to be doing as well. Although Julie's joints were sore and she had little energy to spare, she could still focus and concentrate on her work. Thanks to IV hydration therapy, Julie was able to sustain her quality of life.

Thank goodness, Julie's surgeon knew the value of nutritional medicine. Surgery can solve an immediate problem, but when used alone, it may not achieve the longer-term results. The real beauty here is that a surgical oncologist entrusted me to provide care for their patient.

## Julie's energy is up. She remains optimistic.

My job is to keep up that reserve while she continues to receive chemotherapy treatments and beyond. It is my honor to be an integral part of her journey to wellness.

## "Quality of life" is a very subjective term.

To me, it means we feel like we are living our lives and not just surviving another day.

If someone can no longer do what they used to enjoy, they may begin to feel rather defeated. They may not all be able to do what they love as vigorously as they once did years ago, but it does not mean they should fail to enjoy a quality of life they have come to expect on a physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual level.

How well my patients have an ability to live a quality daily life is the evidence-based medicine I rely upon in my practice.

- Dr. Molly Fantasia

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## Innovative Medical Associates

is a cooperative of like-minded healthcare providers working together within a medically licensed establishment. We can do anything that a primary care physician practice can do such as performing medical evaluations, as well as prescribing therapies, medications, tests, and labs. The cooperative then works together as a team to create a unique comprehensive care plan for every patient.

I specialize in the use of nutraceuticals, medicinally beneficial natural substances, which I refer to as "God's Ingredients." These vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients can greatly improve upon the traditional care that we or other health practitioners may provide for our patients.

Nutraceuticals are delivered via hydration therapy, which is considered the most precise and ideal delivery method for these nutrients to produce a desired outcome. This simply means using intravenous therapy to hydrate the body with nutrients. Taking nutrients orally can greatly reduce their efficacy since the body may not extract enough of the benefits that the cells need. Nutrients delivered directly to the bloodstream via hydration can better work to improve, alter, or prevent chronic symptoms, genetic dispositions, or root causes of disease.

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