

To the editor:

Several apparent errors surfaced on reading the article in the June 2002 issue of *Alternative Medicine Review* by Kodama et al. entitled "Can Maitake MD-Fraction Aid Cancer Patients?" Some of the concerns are:

1. Study of 36 cancer patients is presented, then summarized. This study is admittedly non-randomized. No data is offered with which to analyze the effect of maitake.
2. No mention of dose, either whole maitake or the MD fraction. No mention of the manufacturer or any type of standardization, or analysis of the material.
3. No mention of whether any other treatments, whether holistic or allopathic, were allowed.
4. Lumping symptom improvement and cancer regression as the same statistic.

Case History A

Presented as colloid cancer in a male, metastatic to lung. Although possible, colloid cancer is a form of breast cancer more common in women.

Case History B

The typical dose regimen for cisplatin is 20-120 mg/m² every three weeks, not four times a day as stated. Interleukin-2 is not typically used for liver cancer since it is not known to be effective for that type of cancer.

Case History C

The history states that 20 mg of Adriamycin was given daily from April 1995 to January 1996. This would conservatively estimate the dose to be 4800 mg. Adriamycin (doxorubicin) is dosed no more frequently than weekly at 15-20 mg/m². The lifetime cumulative dose is 550 mg/m². Estimating an adult body surface area (BSA) to be two m², this puts this patient's dose at over four times the maximum allowable dose. In this patient albumin is stated to have improved from 3.1 to 1.9 mg/dL. This actually shows a degradation of health, not improvement.

Case History D

The authors state that patient received 15 mg of Adriamycin and 100 mg of cisplatin from May 1995 to January 1996. This represents overdose as stated above. Total dose of either agent is not stated. Possibility of effect of chemotherapy is not known or mentioned in this patient.

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