

## Miracle Of Spontaneous Regression Studied In Search For Cancer Cure

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a four-part series on "The Fourth Front Against Cancer." In this article, we present the request of the American Cancer Society, a distinguished scientific journal, "Spontaneous Regression.")

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(Written for Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)

CHICAGO, Ill. — (NEA) — A few doctors have witnessed and reported the most awesome and mysterious event in medical practice—a spontaneous regression of cancer.

In spontaneous regression, a patient with cancer, which sometimes has spread beyond medicine's ability to cure or control it, suddenly, without any apparent cause, finds the cancer has disappeared. The patient may live many years without recurrence of the cancer and die of an entirely unrelated cause. Most, however, have a recurrence after months or years of good health.

Dr. Tilden C. Emerson and I have spent five years studying the world medical literature, corresponding with scientists and doctors and reviewing the slides to make certain each case was indeed cancer.

We have verified to our satisfaction 119 cases of spontaneous regression since the year 1900. Considering the millions who have died of cancer during that time, 119 cases are not very many.

No patient should depend on hope for spontaneous regression to cure his cancer. Nevertheless, that this phenomenon—or miracle, if you will—takes place at all persuades us that new and effective methods of curing cancer are possible. Perhaps all we have to do is find out how nature did it in these 119 cases.

The most frequent spontaneous regressions occur in nerve tissue tumors called neuroblastoma. Next to leukemia, this is the commonest kind of cancer in youngsters. If children can live with these tumors 14 months or longer, they stand almost a one-in-three chance of having a spontaneous regression. It may be that the hormone changes of early childhood enhance resistance.

The most common spontaneous regressions in adults occur in cancers of the kidney, of the chorion (a bit of the fetal covering which is left in the womb following delivery) and in melanoma, or "black cancer," of the skin and other tissues.

Spontaneous remissions are also recorded for cancers of the breast, bladder, bone, uterus, colon, rectum, stomach, ovary, lymphatic tissue, thyroid, lung and a few other sites. Sometimes, following removal or even partial removal of the original tumor, cancer colonies throughout the body disappear. It is as though the original tumor produces something which tames the hands of the body's immunity machinery. Or as though the body's defenses against the rapidly growing cancer are overwhelmed until the original tumor is done away with.

Have you noticed how every third is up these days?—space men, the stock market, national debt, interest rates, and the Jones family (the tribe that neighbors attempt to keep up with.) And with these spring days the grass is trying to jump a little higher.

In some cases, the cancer disappears following an acute infection which in some manner mobilizes all the body's natural defenses.

On the basis of these observations, we felt that if the body's defenses could be helped along by artificial means, they might be able to overcome cancer.

We undertook an experiment in which half the advanced breast cancer patients, randomly selected, were given conventional surgery, while the other half were given conventional surgery plus a cancer-killing drug, nitrogen mustard, during and following their operation.

Now, five years after starting the procedure, we find that less than half as many patients have died in the group given surgery plus the drug as in the group of patients who were given surgery only.

It may be that surgery and drugs get rid of most of the cancer, and the body's defenses are able to do the rest of the job. We do not know yet how many more patients actually have been cured by this method than by surgery alone.

Even better results have been achieved on breast cancer using surgery plus another drug called TSPA or Thio-Tepa. A report at last year's annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons said:

"At present there is a strong indication that . . . Thio-Tepa significantly decreases the probability of recurrence. Of the premenopausal patients who had received this therapy, 95 per cent showed no recurrence 26 months postoperatively, compared with 46 per cent for the controls. Cancer-free rates for postmenopausal patients are 89 per cent for those receiving the drug, compared with 66 per cent for the controls."

If these results continue to stand up, the combination of drugs plus surgery may reduce substantially the number of women (now about 25,000 a year in the United States) who die of breast cancer.

Comparable results have not been achieved so far in cancers of any other site. Back around the turn of the century, Dr. W. B. Coley reported that a sizable number of cancer patients who developed erysipelas (a severe and dangerous inflammatory infection) had shown dramatic spontaneous remissions.

Erysipelas is almost extinct in the United States. But for many years scientists have been isolating various toxic fractions of bacteria and testing them for anti-cancer effect on laboratory animals.

In one laboratory, one bacterial toxin has cured about one-third of mice with transplanted cancers. But curative doses have to be high, and for every mouse cured another mouse dies of drug toxicity.

Bacterial toxins during the last decade have been used cautiously on a few cancer patients. They do not cure human cancer. In a few cases they have given a passing remission. Strong doses are risky.

Scientists have tried—and so far in vain—to separate the poisonous components from the therapeutic parts of the toxins. Perhaps the toxic and the therapeutic fractions are the same. Nevertheless, in a growing number of research centers, scientists are seeking to learn the secrets of spontaneous remission. When they reduce to laboratory and clinical procedures the presently mysterious mechanisms of this miracle, cancer will lose some of its dreadful power.

(NEXT: Antigenes—the basis for cancer vaccines.)



CRASH-ILL ADVERTISEMENT — This general store in Lawrenceville, Ill., makes people believe it when it says "Drive in." The car, which appears to have crashed through the side of the store, has been cut in half and placed against the building with piles of "debris" piled on it. City Children's operator of the store, says it's a secret how he obtained the 000,000 license plate.

## TABLE TALKS

Jane Andrews.

In the lemon pie recipe that follows the butter-rich crumble serves as both top and bottom layers for the fresh lemon filling. This dessert is inexpensive and will add a touch of glamour to any meal.

**LEMON FILLING**  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
6 tablespoons cornstarch  
2 cups lemon juice  
1 egg, beaten  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
2 tablespoons butter

Combine sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice and egg in a large bowl. Add hot water gradually and cook over direct heat, stirring constantly for 8-10 minutes, or until thick and clear. Gradually stir hot mixture into beaten egg. Pour back into pan. Cook at low heat 6 minutes longer, stirring constantly until smooth and thick. Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice, grated peel and butter. Cool.

**LEMON CRUMBLE**  
1/2 cup crushed cornflakes  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
1/2 cup flaked coconut  
1/2 teaspoon soda  
1/2 cup melted butter

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
**Lemon filling**  
Fresh lemon slices  
Mix cornflakes, sugar, flour, coconut, and soda together, blending well. Stir in melted butter and lemon peel. Cover bottom of 9-inch round cake pan with 1/2 of crumble mixture. Pour in lemon filling. Sprinkle remaining crumble mixture on top. Bake at 350 degrees F. oven for 20-30 minutes, or until mixture bubbles up. Cool. Garnish with whipped cream and lemon slices.

**CHOCOLATE MERINGUE PIE**  
1 9-inch baked pie shell  
2 cups milk  
2 squares chocolate  
1/2 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 egg yolks, slightly beaten  
1 tablespoon butter

Fresh lemon slices  
Mix milk and chocolate in top of double boiler. Blend sugar, cornstarch, and salt together. Add to milk and chocolate. Cook over boiling water until thick (about 15 minutes), stirring constantly. Cover and let cook for 10 minutes. Add part of hot mixture to egg yolks and blend quickly. Return to double boiler and stir over hot water for 4-5 minutes. Add butter and vanilla; pour into pie shell and cover with meringue.

**MERINGUE**  
3 egg whites  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
6 tablespoons sugar  
Beat whites with salt until fluffy but not stiff. Add sugar gradually; continue beating until meringue stands in peaks. Cover filling, spreading to edges to prevent shrinkage. Bake at 425 degrees F. oven for 4-5 minutes or until peaks are browned. Cool before serving.

When I was at the Arizona Inn in Tucson a couple of months ago, I was served buttermilk chifon pie, writes Eleanor Rich. The chef cut his recipe down to one that makes 3 pies. Checking through about 10 standard cookbooks, I find that none of them gives a buttermilk pie recipe, so you may want this for something entirely different from other pies you serve. As you may well imagine, chefs perform a

## Who Started These April Fool Jokes?

Legend blames Noah for the Feast of Folly. He is supposed to have sent a dove soaring from the Ark on a fruitless flight to look for a landing place before the Flood waters abated.

More plausible is the suggestion that it all began in France. The French were the first to use the word "April Fool" instead of March 25th.

Before the change, New Year merrymaking ended with a bumper feast on April 1st. On that day gifts were exchanged.

When January 1st became New Year's Day the French were loath to lose their April festival, so a mock feast was held on the first day of that month. Joke gifts were exchanged.

To-day, April 1st in France is called the feast of "poison d'Avril," which means a young fish, or April fish, easily caught. The French exchange small chocolate fish on All Fools' Day.

Many people think the Feast of Fools is connected with the ancient Hindu Feast of Holi. This is celebrated on March 31st, when Hindus send unsuspecting people on pious errands. But theologians say that April 1st was the beginning of a medieval month of prayer for the foolish. That day was also the one day in the Middle Ages when the harmless insane were allowed out of their cages.

Prayers were offered for their cure. That day became known as All Fools' Day.

The high-larks of April 1st are part of life almost all over the world. Spain and Germany object, however, and Russia does

not favour the custom, though it is played in the country districts.

This year, American chewing gum manufacturers marketed special All Fool Jokes which were made from gum, coated with pepper and coated with sugar. The children are supposed to use it to tempt their parents to make monkeys of themselves.

In Turkey the Press last week, fooling, they publish fantastic stories. Other countries have followed suit.

A Bern newspaper boomed its readers with a tale that Captain Lowenstein, the British fascist who disappeared when flying across the English Channel, had been found in Switzerland.

Again, a Bucharest newspaper shocked its readers with a story that the city's main railway station had collapsed during the rush hour, killing hundreds of people.

Panic swept the city. It was only stilled when the paper ran a special edition explaining the hoax.

Rumanian aristocrats in each still talk of the famous party who specialized in April Fool jokes.

Once he pointed a camera onto the wood floor of an art exhibition in Bucharest. King Carol spotted it and was confused when he couldn't pick it up. The following year the painter drew a number of liquid cigarette stubs on the floor and had quite a laugh as the aristocrats of Rumania tried to extinguish them.

Good, harmless fun. But it has not always ended like that. San Francisco police are still busy to find the "joke" who got some workmen sandwiches.

Very tasty they were too, but they all contained a lethal dose of arsenic.

It was pointless, saying the mystery killer had no link with any of his victims. He is still free to strike again.

Last year, a Warsaw husband was met by a friend who told him that his wife had run away with another man. The husband rushed home. He did not see his friend's started cry of "April Fool."

Seconds later a shot came from within the house. The husband had killed himself.

## Those Rocketeers Are Still Busy

A New Jersey housewife, weak in mathematics, thought she snuffed a bargain when two rough-and-ready strangers rang her doorbell and offered to apply fertilizer to the lawn for "a mere" 5 cents a square foot. She was told to get a square foot of lawn.

Some of the 40 by 100-foot plots she waited too long to stop payment on her cheque, learned eventually that her lawn had been coated with little more than water and sand. In St. Louis, a travelling entrepreneur who "guaranteed" to make asphalt driveways as good as new were simply applying old chickenfeed oil collecting fat fees, and moving.

On leaving, unimproved drives that remained sticky for weeks. A San Bruno, Calif., householder, using a paintbrush to clean the house paint ran off the paint, and ruined his shrubbery, learned that the shrubbery would have withered in any case.

Unwillingly, he was a rootless "nurseryman" who had since vanished.

From coast to coast, the warning sign of spring was producing the annual crop of seasonal swindlers who prey on the S. homeowners in their most vulnerable moments. Bewitched by thoughts of grass and gardens, uncertain about winter's ravages, thousands of Americans needed only the nudge of a promised bargain to be easy pickings.

And the pickers came in endless variety.

Some sharpeners promised "home repairs," collecting exorbitant fees for fixing nonexistent "rot" damage, exterminating imaginary mice, selling cheap cures of peeling paint jobs.

Others were closer to nature if not to virtue: unwary customers will plant bulbs that never sprout, have trees mangled by quick "tree surgeons," or buy tons of worthless "fertilizer" and "topsoil" (impossibly, if most ingenuously, black) from unscrupulous merchants.

While some of the racketeers are outright criminals, the most costly are simply sharp business practices that leave victims no legal remedy.

A prevalent case in point involves high-pressure salesmen of aluminum house sidings who sell cheap materials and workmanship talk customers into contracts as high as \$1000 for a modest-size house.

When taking a second mortgage on the house itself as security, the "contractors" develop sales leads with boiler-room telephone operations or blatant TV commercials. "There's no hard sell here, folks," runs a Los Angeles radio spot.

Once in a while, a salesman may offer rebates for referrals to other neighbors or even offer siding free as a "demonstration model" for the neighborhood. He requires only that the householder sign a "few papers."

The world's loneliest post office was established on Floreana Island, about six hundred miles west of Ecuador, South America. It consisted of a large barrel standing on the shore.

The islanders dropped their letters into it and passing ships called and collected them, putting back into the barrel any post from the mainland.

Among other progressive steps in today's world we note a recently announced four-hundred-million-dollar but not yet started ceremony of companies that have an eight-handed executive board.

Special "breaks" for "referrals" or "demonstrations" are a common gimmick with sharpies.

Atlanta's Better Business Bureau estimates that no less than 30 "contractors" were operating in that city last month. California officials have started a special drive against such phony, whose take "is running into millions of dollars."

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