

LOCAL HYPERTHERMIA TREATMENT FOR CANCER IN
AIDS PATIENTS.

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Long term control of cancer in patients with marked immune deficiency is not possible, and sustained reversal of immune deficiency in AIDS patients has so far proved elusive. Palliative cancer treatment can be effective; however both irradiation and chemotherapy are known to further suppress immune response. We have therefore tried hyperthermia combined with low dose radiotherapy for these patients.

Four patients have received hyperthermia combined with 20 Gy for Kaposi's Sarcoma. A total of 16 fields received 12 to 25 hyperthermia treatments over 5-10 weeks. Tumor response was partial in 14 and complete in 2. One patient with dyspnea and pain when walking had 90% regression of lung lesions, complete regression of most lesions on the soles of both feet, and complete relief of symptoms persisting now, 4 months after treatment.

One patient with lymphoma received the same treatment to his then only site of disease, a huge mass originating in the parotid but involving the entire right face and neck. Response was complete but he died 3 months after treatment.

Immune response increased slightly in most cases and in none did it decrease following treatment.

Hyperthermia shows promise for palliation of cancer in AIDS patients without further compromising their immune response.

AIDS ASSOCIATED CANCER				
LOCAL HYPERTHEMIA TREATMENTS				
TYPE	#	CR	PR	NR
Kaposi's	4 pts, 16 fields	2 (12%)	14 (88%)	0
Lymphoma	1	1 (100%)	0	0
Method: 12-25 Tx 2000 rad (except lung 1000 rad)				