



Date: July 8, 2004

Organization:

Location: Vermont

Author(s): M.W., MD (retired neurologist)

Indications: cancer pain

Case description:

In February 1996, at the age of 66, I came down with severe fatigue and was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The diagnosis was confirmed by flow cytometry; CLL B-cells and kappa cells were found. An oncologist advised chemotherapy, but I declined. I held my own until September 1997, when I received an antibiotic for a rapidly progressive skin rash. I took the full course of medication and developed an enlarged, painful liver, presumably as an adverse response to medication. Because I am allergic to most pain medication, a neurosurgeon referred me to the Sports Medicine Clinic of the University of Vermont, where Dr. Steven Mann recommended an Alpha-Stim 100 for pain control and taught me how to use it.

I reported that the unit gave me 60%-90% pain relief. By December 1997, I was pain-free, and my liver was back to normal size. My liver function tests reverted to normal. I took no medication or herbal concoctions for the liver pain.

In May 1999, I developed firm, enlarged axillary lymph nodes, up to one inch in diameter. They made me so uncomfortable that I slept with my arms raised above my head. In an attempt to decrease the discomfort and pain, I applied the Alpha-Stim for 12 hours. To my relief and amazement, not only did I become pain-free, but the lymph nodes reduced to normal size within no more than 24 hours. Whenever the nodes enlarged, which usually occurred within 2 to 3 weeks, I applied the Alpha-Stim unit again as needed. My internist, Dr. Stephen Gorman, confirmed repeatedly that the lymph nodes had shrunk, and he was very pleased.

Until May 2002, liver function tests remained within normal limits, but then I abruptly developed acute toxic hepatitis attributed to an adverse response to the drug Tegretol. I had been taking this medication for 9 years, since a small brain-stem stroke (confirmed by MRI at the Massachusetts General Hospital). An all-night EEG with blood pressure monitoring demonstrated that I had a nocturnal seizure disorder. I stopped taking Tegretol, and within 6 weeks, my liver was no longer tender and enlarged. During that period, I again used the Alpha-Stim unit for pain control, with the same degree of pain relief.

In September 2003, I developed a pleural and pericardial effusion and generalized, severe joint pain. My doctor determined that I had an acute autoimmune condition, a diagnosis confirmed by echocardiogram, lung scans, and blood tests. Steroids and anti-inflammatory medication resolved this condition. During the acute phase, I did not use the Alpha-Stim.

From the time I started taking Tegretol, I had had routine liver function tests and blood tests. My test results had been normal until the liver toxicity set in. With the onset of leukemia, my blood was also tested for immunoglobulin (IgA, IgM, and IgL) levels. These test results are summarized in tabular form. My internist, on inspecting the blood counts, noted numerous instances when the white blood count and the lymphocyte count dropped after I had used the Alpha-Stim.

Until the data are subjected to statistical analysis, the relevance of this observation will remain unknown. For this reason, I'm submitting this testimonial to you, Dr. Daniel L. Kirsch, the inventor of the Alpha-Stim, for further examination.

Were this information to benefit other patients in some way in their fight against cancer, then I will feel that this attempt to contribute in a minor way is worthwhile. If the analysis demonstrates that my experience results from the well-recognized 'placebo effect,' no harm done.

Thank you for inventing the Alpha-Stim.