

Editorial Note on Successful Anti-Cancer Therapeutic Regimens

Gloria Simmons^{*}

Editorial Office, Journal of Medical Diagnostic Methods, UK

EDITORIAL

Cancer has a millennia-long medical history. Patients with cancer have been found in ancient Egyptian and Greek civilizations, when the disease was mostly treated with drastic surgery and cautery, which were often futile and resulted in patient death. Important discoveries over the centuries allowed for the identification of the biological and pathological characteristics of tumours, but they did not contribute to the development of effective therapeutic approaches until the late 1800s, when the discovery of X-rays and their use for tumour treatment provided the first modern therapeutic approach in medical oncology. However, after WWII, the discovery of cytotoxic antitumor medicines and the development of chemotherapy for the treatment of diverse haematological and solid malignancies marked a true breakthrough. There has been an exponential growth of studies involving the utilization of novel medications for cancer treatment since this epochal turning point. The second major breakthrough in oncology and pharmacology

occurred in the early 1980s, thanks to molecular and cellular biology studies that enabled the development of particular medications targeting some of the molecular targets implicated in neoplastic processes, resulting in targeted therapy. Chemotherapy and targeted therapy have improved cancer patients' longevity and quality of life by producing complete tumour remission in some cases. Following that, at the turn of the third millennium, thanks to genetic engineering studies, clinical oncology and pharmacology advanced even further with the introduction of monoclonal antibodies and immune checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of advanced or metastatic tumours for which there was previously no effective treatment. Today's cancer research is continually focused on the study and development of new cancer therapeutic techniques. Several researchers are currently working on the development of cell therapies, anti-tumour vaccines, and new biotechnological drugs that have already shown promise in preclinical studies; as a result, we will undoubtedly contribute to a new revolution in the field of medical oncology in the near future.

Correspondence to: Gloria Simmons, Editorial Office, Journal of Medical Diagnostic Methods, UK, E-mail: gloriasim@gmail.com

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