

How does acupuncture and holistic medicine help dog with a cancer?

While chemotherapy is often a very effective form of treatment, it is not the ONLY treatment. Be sure to find out about all treatment options for your dog. Dogs usually receive a much lower dose of chemotherapy drugs, so they tolerate it much better and have fewer side effects than humans. That's right but it also implies that the low dosage Chemotherapy just help to improve the quality of life of each cancer patient not for a complete cure and also most dogs will exhibit some side effects at one point or another during treatment. Your dog will show a general weakness, fatigue, apathy, poor appetite, weight loss at various points during treatment, also most dogs will experience at least one encounter with diarrhea at some point during treatment. Before starting chemotherapy, you should ask a doctor those side effects and how successfully and completely your dog will recover from cancer. If the answer is very low or no and if you focus on the quality of life I strongly believe acupuncture and holistic medicine is pleasant (keeping same activity and mentality level), affordable, less invasive, and very fewer side effects treatment option compare to chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

The goal of holistic medicine is to diagnose imbalances in the life force (Qi), determine their causes (etiology of the disease) and subsequently remove those causes from the patient's environment (treatment). The holistic medicine views cancer as a long time untreated imbalance and stagnation in each organ or points between two polarities of Qi, yin (-) and yang (+). Within this conceptual framework, acupuncture is used to "communicate" with body organs and tissues through special channels or meridians. Health and healing in this context is the integration and restoration of balance or harmony of Qi. Special herb also greatly helps speeding the process of healing.

Acupuncture and holistic medicine always used as supportive treatment option for immune booster and general support for the post-chemo or radiation therapy. Chemo or radiation pre-treated patients typically have an improved quality of life and likely have longer survival times when treated with acupuncture and special herbal formulas compare to regular chemo-patients who do not have these options. They will have the decent quality of life because acupuncture and holistic medicine can help to prevent most of side effects from chemo and radiation. This view has been validated recently by several journals and scientific data. One of the earliest records of veterinary acupuncture was some 3000 years ago in China. Remember people have used acupuncture and holistic medicine for their animal and themselves very long time ago before chemo and radiation were invented. We should use modern science and old wisdom together to help our four legged friends suffering from cancer not with only one treatment option.

You may find more special techniques used in treating dogs with cancer at **Pet Lovers Animal Hospital** in Fairfax, VA. –Dr. Yong Chun/Certified Veterinary Acupuncture Specialist 703-691-2873