

'Dendritic cell therapy is effective'

believes Dr J.A. Khan, Director, Institute of Cellular Therapies Pvt Ltd, J-3, Sect-41, Noida

Q. What motivated you to do dendritic cell therapy in India?

A. I have been working for unraveling cancer mystery since I was in Std X. I had seen my nearest and dearest ones suffer and wanted to remove such suffering. I decided that I have to do clinical practice on my own and would not depend on institutional support to start something different based on immunology. I quit my teaching job of seven years from AMU to fulfil my desire of treating cancers with cell based approach.

Q. Where do you feel you have reached now with all the efforts?

A. I am quite satisfied with the outcome. What I studied during my 10 years of research is happening now. Patients of stage IV disease are living a longer life . Patients of complete remission stage



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have not developed relapse. The methodology of dendritic cell therapy we developed is simple, safe and effective to treat various cancers. It can be performed on a large scale comparable to a pharmaceutical industry and patients are not required to be physically present in our centre for getting treatment. They can

be given this therapy like they are being offered chemotherapy in their respective hospitals. I see its acceptance at various levels soon.

Q. Do Oncologists refer patients to you and why?

A. Sometimes, as primarily some oncologists have reservations on this subject. They believe on randomised trials that require millions of dollars and time. But that would be difficult in cell therapy due to its customised nature.

Q. Are monoclonal antibodies a better option?

A. Monoclonal antibodies (mabs) are to be given for life and dendritic cell therapy is given for shorter duration. Dendritic cell therapy is the better option and has no adverse value, mabs can destroy normal cells.

Q. What are your future plans?

A. I have conceived and developed the product Denvax, proved its safety and efficacy and have given the technology to the company which is governed by Indian laws. The company would provide cure to patients and financial returns to its stake holders. We have recently signed an agreement with Malaysian Pharma company Antah Health Care Sdn Bhd to provide Denvax for Malaysian patients.

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