

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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New, better therapy for cancer revealed

BREAST-GYNECOLOGICAL International Cancer Society (BGICS) has revealed a new immunotherapy that has the ability to achieve recovery against lung, bladder and skin pigmentation tumours. In addition, recent research showed the possibility of using this therapy to cure breast cancer.

The studies have further pointed to an end to the use of chemical therapy within the coming five years.

This was revealed during a press conference held on the sidelines of the eighth International Conference of BGISCS headed by Dr Hisham el Ghazali, Professor of Tumours, Ain Shams University.

The conference which was organised in collaboration with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the European Society of Surgical Oncology and the European School of Oncology, tackled 120 work papers from Egypt and throughout the world. It also organised nine workshops about the clinical pharmacy of tumours.

According to Dr Ghazali, the new immunotherapy to cure tumours appeared in the past two years. It led to a remarkable high rate of recovery that started with curing skin pigmentation tumours and then extended to lung and bladder tumours. The former US President, Jimmy Carter, recovered completely from melanoma that had spread in his skin cells.

He explained that the immunotherapy is based on activation of the immune system. The therapy has the lowest side effects and is superior to the traditional chemotherapy that achieves recovery accompanied by several side effects and the possibility of relapse, Dr Ghazali added.

For the first time, Dr Ghazali added, the conference highlighted the new drugs that are used to cure eight types of breast tumours according to the genes associated with them.

The conference also revealed new drugs for the prevention of breast cancer that could be used by women with risk factors, such as a family history of breast cancer, Dr Ghazali said. These drugs have slight side effects and there are several types, appropriate for women according to their ages.

Dr Ghazali added that pre-operative therapy was one of the most important topics discussed during the conference. This technique is based on giving target, or hormonal, or chemical therapies together, or separately, to overcome tumours or reduce their size before carrying out surgery. Research has shown the possibility of decreasing the size of a tumour by 60 per cent, said Dr Ghazali.

He further said that if the tumour disappeared completely due to pre-operative therapy, the recovery rate could be raised to 98 per cent after surgery.

The conference also focused on new research tackling the possibility of maintaining female fertility by using several methods such as hormonal therapy.

According to Dr Yasser Abd el Qader, Professor of Oncology, Cairo University, immunotherapy got the approval of the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in 2015 for curing lung cancer, adding that the treatment is available in Egypt and has already been used in selected cases preceded by a biological test.

Dr Abdel Qader added that immunotherapy could also be used for kidney tumours, replacing chemotherapy. It achieved better results. He added that the main problem was that the price of immunotherapy was too high in Egypt.

Dr Maged Abu Se'da, Professor of Gynaecology, Ain Shams University, spoke of recent developments in the diagnosis and treatment of the female reproductive system.