TOPIC — virus

*Rigvir* – great potential in struggle against the cancer

The positive impact of viruses has been discovered in Riga, Latvia long time ago. They successfully work with a special virus called *Rigvir* having a great potential in struggle against the cancer.

Usually it takes meeting in person to write an extensive article. The meeting is necessary both to get acquainted with persons related to medical articles and to get a direct picture of the topic concerned. It is a golden rule in *AlmaNova* publishing office. We had a healthy scepticism towards the fact that in our neighbouring country, Latvia, they pursue a new approach to cure the cancer. Latvia and Riga are not that far away and, at any rate, — the interest was already sparked.

Of course, we had to get to the site of action. We encountered some problems in our trip to Latvia. We had arranged a meeting in the International Virotherapy Center. They had carefully prepared for our visit by organising a meeting both with physicians, researchers and administration representatives in the very heart of Riga. But we had other assignments and had to postpone our meeting twice. When we finally arrived at the Virotherapy Center, we were warmly welcomed.

Pēteris Alberts

One of the main representatives of Rigvir is a Swede Pēteris Alberts. He has spent more than 40 years in Sweden where his parents fled from the world war and now he has returned to his homeland to share his knowledge in medicine. He started his carefully prepared presentation especially for us with some pictures where one can see the cancer treatment patron, St. Peregrine (Peregrine Laziosi) (1265-1345). Peregrine had an ulcer on his right leg that bled and had unpleasant odour. His foot was about to be amputated, but it began to cure and the tumour disappeared. People mainly tried to explain this occasion with force of religious creed, but the meticulous natural science might look for a biological cause owing to that miraculous healing. Nowadays in light of similar miracles when a surface tumour seemingly reduces spontaneously it can be sometimes observed that the patient at the same time had caught cold and had slightly increased body temperature. Could it be that a virus caused mononucleosis and at the same time attacked the infected tumour cells?

Such anecdotal stories about people who suffered from severe cancer and then recovered out of the blue after having caught some minor infection drew attention to the role of viruses in human immunity. The person interested was Aina Muceniece.

Aina Muceniece
Aina Mucenieze (1924 — 2010) got inspiration from said anecdotal stories. She was interested in them as a microbiologist and since during her professional life Latvia was incorporated in the Soviet Union, she joined a programme in 1960 within the framework of which the USA and the Soviet Union elaborated polio vaccine. Her task was to determine the flora of healthy children intestines before and after the vaccination. These viruses were isolated and collected for further studies. Due to this assignment she came in closer contact with so-called oncolytic viruses. These are viruses capable of binding only to the tumour cells. Viruses penetrate them, quickly proliferate and when that procedure is over, they undergo lysis or in other words — detonate the cell infected by the virus. This process results in 100 — 1,000 new viruses being released in blood circulation, continuing to infect other cancer cells.

Due to interest in oncolytic viruses Aina could start her laboratory studies already in 1960s. In 1987 she started clinical studies in Moscow. Not everything went smooth because the Soviet Union had its whims. In order to get a funding for further studies she needed both personal contacts and good relationships with the party.

When Latvia regained its independence in 1991, it became easier to work. In the 90s the studies were completed where it was proved that an oncolytic virus can be safely and efficiently used in struggle against the cancer.

State agencies in Latvia gradually issued their approvals. Let's look at some phases in this process:
Year of 2002 Special version of Rigvir, used by Aina Mucenieze, is protected with a patent.
Year of 2004 Rigvir is registered after having been tested in studies with more than 700 patients. It takes place one week before Latvia's accession to the European Union.
Year of 2008 The Virotherapy Centre becomes the International Virotherapy Center.
Year of 2011 Rigvir is included in the Latvian health insurance system and is available free of charge for Latvian residents suffering from melanoma.
Year of 2015 Rigvir is included in the national guidelines.
Year of 2015 Rigvir is registered in Georgia.
Year of 2016 Rigvir is registered in Armenia.

Pēteris Alberts is the director of Swedish research clinics producing Rigvir — a virus that finds and kills cancer cells.

In 2004 this special version of so far used oncovirus ECHO-7 was named Rigvir — a Rigan virus. Concurrently with the registration, Aina Mucenieze, who had the first-hand information in its entirety, made sure before her death about the results of the treatment. In her will she stated that she wants all Latvian citizens suffering from the cancer to receive treatment free of charge.
Results and side effects

Clinical success was observed in many cases of cancer. Rigvir’s efficiency was proved. However, one must pay attention to specifics of the virus. If we look at the predominant treatment practice — surgery, chemotherapy and radiation — we cannot separate the ill cells from the healthy ones. Therefore we often see severe side effects. During use of Rigvir one often observes short-term, flue-resembling and slightly increased temperature. Other side effects occur very rarely. Another crucial advantage of Rigvir is that it attacks all tumour cells — both in primary cancer and metastases. It is not so easy to access metastases by means of a surgery or radiotherapy.

Laboratory examination results confirm that, the specific properties of Rigvir makes sure that it attacks and infects malignant cells 100 - 10,000 times more precisely than the healthy cells.

Efficiency: So far, on the basis of statistical data, high precision impact has been proved in case of malignant melanoma.

Results may vary depending on the initial condition of a patient or the phase of the disease when the treatment has been started. However, in comparison with the conventional treatment methods, Rigvir's provided five year survival rate is almost 90% while conventional treatment methods provide only 50-60% of survival. In comparison to the conventional therapy, the survival potential is 4.5 - 6.5 times larger.

Thunderstorm clouds covering Riga skies

Recently dark thunderstorm clouds started to gather in the skies. The EU has put forth higher requirements for clinical studies in order to preserve medicine registration in future. 20 years ago the registration of medicines could cost as much as 100 million dollars. Currently these costs have grown uncontrollably. Riga centre has been blamed for addressing directly a patient in its informative materials. A libel campaign has been started with the people behind it claiming that the centre has serious commercial interests. We find it quite obvious that Big Pharma industry and lobbies are hiding behind this campaign. Yet the campaign is also a possibility to show the powerful effects of Rigvir. Pharmacy industry sees a fierce competition for its cytostatic drugs, besides Rigvir is much more efficient. This is what the clinical reports received from Riga reveal. Rigvir increases survival potential 4-6 times, depending on the stage of the illness on the moment of starting the treatment, in comparison to, for example, the malignant melanoma treatment methods offered in Sweden. In smaller clinical studies Rigvir shows huge potential in treating also such diseases as small-cell lung cancer (where conventional medicine is completely powerless). Rigvir can successfully treat also different stomach, intestinal, pancreatic cancer, bladder, prostate, uterine and renal cancer.

Rigvir for us, who don’t live in Latvia
Rigvir has gotten global acknowledgement with good reason. We noticed it recently in Ty Bollinger's epic documentary "The Truth about Cancer". Just like us, he also came to Riga in order to engage in interesting discussions with several people, including the professor Ivars Kalviņš — the leading Latvian scientist who continues pioneering and follows the path of Aina Muceniece.

There are several clinics in the world, in addition to Georgia and Armenia, where physicians, who have studied in Latvia, have been granted rights to subscribe Rigvir. Yet, there is a principle that the virus is not sold as a medicine, but instead it is prescribed by those physicians who are duly authorised to do so and who have completed a course in the International Virotherapy Centre. Here, in the seaside resort Jūrmala, located 25 km Northwest from Riga, a centre for cancer treatment with Rigvir has been established where also other treatment methods are offered, such as hyperthermia method, acupuncture and physiotherapy. It is especially important that the centre pursues holistic approach to treatment by taking care of the patient as a whole. Foreign visitors are received here. Patient's health condition is carefully examined, by reading all the medical records taken along to learn more. The recommended staying time in patients' hotel in Jūrmala is at least one week during which the viral therapy takes place by injecting Rigvir. The subsequent treatment must be completed in no more than three years by dividing it in three periods. Patient can do it at home, because a global network of Rigvir doctors has been established. We would like to know whether people in Sweden are interested in it?
- In Sweden people are afraid of trying something new, but in Germany people are more liberal and want to know more.

Of course, Swedish patients are kindly welcome to be treated here. But for common people the price could be a restricting factor. Three months' treatment course, starting in Jūrmala clinics, cost 7,000 euro in 2016. If three years' course of treatment is necessary, the average costs may reach 12,000 - 14,000 euro. The company's profit is invested in research and clinic studies, which are carried out within the framework of the agencies' requests. In comparison to the cancer treatment in Swedish university hospitals, the price is low, although in Sweden it is covered by taxpayers.

Rigvir is discussed in Arab countries, Sweden keeps silent

Regardless of the treatment price, the modern Jūrmala clinic is attended by increasingly more foreign patients. The number of patients grows every year and in recent years it has reached several hundreds. Among the rich customers there are also representatives from royal families from Qatar and Bahrain. The clinic has been visited also by the Qatar news agency "Al-Jazeera" representatives and devoting the prime time for broadcasting from Riga. We had long discussions and many questions for the hospitable employees of Rigvir — physicians, researchers and administration. We all are very well aware of the Rigvir's potential to break status quo in the cancer treatment area. It means also that the Big Pharma might feel threatened...
Video about Rigvir is available at www.almanova.eu
www.virotherapy.eu (general information)
www.rigvir.com (for professionals)