

Chelation Therapy

The intravenous solution used in Chelation Therapy includes a chelating agent- a synthetic amino acid called ethyl-enediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) - along with various vitamins and minerals. The EDTA would seek out toxic metals within your body, such as lead, calcium, aluminum, and mercury. It would also find certain minerals such as calcium, the “glue” in artery plaque. EDTA then wraps itself around these substances and pull them out of your body via your kidneys.

Chelation comes from the Greek word ‘*chele*’, meaning to claw or to bind. When administered properly, chelation therapy is a safe and effective way to pull heavy metals, toxins, and metabolic wastes from the bloodstream.

So far, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves chelation therapy only for heavy metal poisoning, such as lead poisoning, or for severe digitalis toxicity. However, nearly 50 years of research indicates that chelation therapy can help reverse chronic degenerative diseases such as atherosclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, and arthritis. It may even reduce the risk of cancer.

Benefits of Chelation Therapy

Heart Health

The plaque on artery walls is comprised of fats, collagen, fibrin, mucopolysaccharides, cholesterol, foreign proteins, and other mysterious entities included in the typical Western diet. Calcium is the substance that holds all these clogging substances together.

When chelating agents such as EDTA pluck the calcium from the artery plaque, the clogging material falls apart and flows out of the body through the bloodstream. In this way, chelation therapy helps widen the arteries and improve blood flow. Elmer Cranton, M.D., co-author of *Bypassing the Bypass*, claims chelation therapy results in a 75 to 95 percent success rate in improving the blood flow in patient with clogged arteries.

Another perspective comes from Ben Boucher, M.D., of Cape Breton, Canada. He asserts that the buildup of metals in our bodies causes free radical oxidation, which damages cells. He explained in a Medical Post report that when the cells of the artery walls are damaged, cholesterol accumulates, strangling circulation. Boucher believes that chelation therapy can reverse the effects of free-radical oxidation, allowing oxygen and nutrient rich blood to flow freely through the arteries.

In addition, a Finnish study links heart disease to excessive amount of iron stored in the body. If these findings are confirmed, chelation therapy could well be the treatment of choice. Iron is one of the metals it pulls out of the human system.

Metal Poisoning

Chelation therapy is probably best known for treating heavy metal poisoning, such as lead. In fact, the FDA recognizes chelation therapy as the most effective - and possibly the only feasible- treatment for heavy metal toxicity.

A recent study confirmed the efficacy of chelation therapy for lead poisoning. Carol A. Huseman of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and her co-workers studied 12 children for up to one year, measuring growth rates at levels of the hormones that regulate growth.

The researchers studied six children with toxic levels of lead, before and after chelation therapy. According to Huseman, the other six children did not need chelation.

Before chelation, the children with high levels of lead grew far more slowly than normal. However, following chelation, each child experienced a significant growth spurt. In fact, one child’s bone growth rate almost tripled.

Alzheimer's disease

Chelation therapy also helps remove aluminum from the brain, a metal that may contribute to Alzheimer's disease. In addition, it acts as a gentle deblocking agent for clogged blood vessels in the brain and the rest of the body. According to Drs. H. Richard Casdorph and Morton Walker, authors of *Toxic Metal Syndrome: How Toxic Metal Poisoning Can Affect Your Brain*, chelation therapy has been shown to help at least 50 percent of elderly people who have tried it. They are documented as showing greater mental clarity, improved memory, and increased I.Q. It works best, the authors point out, in patients with early-stage Alzheimer's. They also note that traditional medicine has little or nothing to offer most patients with brain disorders.

Cancer

Chelation therapy helps control free radicals, which are linked to the cell destruction that can lead to cancer.

Researchers are looking into the possibility that chelation therapy may lower the risk of cancer deaths. A lengthy study, started in 1958, investigated 231 adults who lived near a well-traveled highway in Switzerland. They had a higher rate of cancer mortality than people in the same city who lived in areas with less traffic. The researchers speculated that the group's high incidence of cancer deaths was caused by their exposure to lead from automobile exhaust.

In 1961, 59 individuals from this group underwent ten or more EDTA chelation treatments, and the other 172 were used as a control group. Walter Blumer, M.D., of Nestal, Switzerland, conducted an 18-year follow-up study of the group. He found that only one of the 59 treated patients died of cancer (1.7 percent), in contrast to the 30 deaths (17.6 percent) from the control group. That is a 90 percent decrease in cancer mortality. He based his findings on Swiss death certificates and statistical evidence showing that EDTA chelation therapy was the only significant difference between the control group and the treated patients.

Garry F. Gordon, M.D., is quoted as saying, "Anything that reduces your burden of toxic metals, which feeds the fire of free radicals, sufficiently safeguards your immune system so that your body can more efficiently handle early cancers."

Other Conditions

As it removes toxic metal ions from the body, chelation therapy decreases the internal inflammation caused by free radical mischief. As a result, it can alleviate the disability and discomfort of degenerative illnesses such as arthritis, scleroderma (a hardening of the skin and certain organs), and lupus.

Allergies and chemical sensitivities seem to improve after chelation therapy, because the individual's immune system is working more efficiently.

As early as the 1960's, chelation therapy was shown to help diabetics, allowing some patients to reduce or even stop taking their medications. This result was attributed to the fact that diabetes damages blood vessels, and chelation therapy seems to reverse some of that damage.