Arizona study to examine if extract clears virus in patients with mild cervical pre-cancers

Investigators with the University of Arizona and the National Cancer Institute are conducting a study to see if a drug containing a strong antioxidant extracted from green tea, Polyphenon E (also referred to as sinecatechins), is effective in clearing high-risk HPV and preventing cervical cancer precursors in young women who have persistent HPV infections and low-grade cervical lesions (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia 1, or CIN 1).

In a number of laboratory studies, Polyphenon E has been found to suppress tumors. The extract is also the active ingredient in a topical agent, Veregen™ Ointment 15%, that is FDA approved for the treatment of external genital and perianal warts in healthy adults. In clinical trials, warts resolved in nearly 54% of subjects treated with Veregen (and recurred in fewer than 7% of those treated with the product).

The Arizona/NCI collaboration seeks to enroll 176 subjects with confirmed CIN 1 and persistent HPV infection for at least six months. Participants will be randomized into two groups, one that receives oral green tea extract and another that is given placebo. Subjects will receive treatment for 16 weeks, with two weeks of post-study follow-up. The primary endpoint of the study is viral clearance of oncogenic HPV types.

Women in Arizona or North Carolina interested in learning more about the study can receive more information by calling the office of Dr. Francisco Garcia at the University of Arizona National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health at 520.626.8539.

Study Listing:
Green Tea Extract in Preventing Cervical Cancer in Patients with Human Papillomavirus and Low-Grade Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia. (study NCT00303823)