

## Information Sheet : Liver Detoxification with Coffee Enemas

---

### LIVER DETOXIFICATION WITH COFFEE ENEMAS AS EMPLOYED IN THE GERSON THERAPY, BY MORTON WALKER, DPM

The following article comprises Chapter Eleven taken from a forth-coming book, *The Gerson Therapy: The Amazing Nutritional Program for Cancer and Other Illnesses*, coauthored by Charlotte Gerson and Morton Walker, DPM. This new title will be issued in September 2001 by the Kensington Publishing Corporation of New York City.

Kent Gardner, age 46, a taxidermist living in Phoenix, Arizona, discovered that he had only an 8% chance of five-year survival because of cancer of both the esophagus and larynx. Expanding in Mr. Gardner's throat was a golf-ball-sized malignant tumor that imminently endangered his life.

"I bought the original Gerson Therapy book authored long ago by Max Gerson, MD [A Cancer Therapy: Results of Fifty Cases], read it two times in less than 20 days, and asked myself, what do I have to lose? I knew I was dying. The coffee enemas included in this nutritional program were a mental hurdle I had to overcome, but once I experienced one of them, I could feel a difference in the boosting of my health and realized their importance," Kent Gardner wrote for the Gerson™ *Healing Newsletter*.

"After about one-and-a-half months, my throat swelling was way down, and the tumor was dead," he continues. "Reducing the size weekly, it was rotting in my throat. Frankly, it felt like hell! This thing now rotting produced a constant, horrible smell unlike anything I had ever experienced – even after working for 24 years as a taxidermist!

"Still doing the Gerson Therapy faithfully, about 2<sup>1/2</sup> months later, as I was locking my car to walk into a local hardware store, the dead tumor fluttered [vibrated] for about two seconds, then as I swallowed I felt it break free. I sort of staggered into the store, feeling panicked. I broke into profuse sweating and started losing consciousness. I fell to my knees in a series of convulsions, and I knew I was in trouble," Mr. Gardner asserts.

"Thinking about this situation later, I realized the tumor had moved into my stomach, where it mixed with digestive juices, producing ammonia poisons and gases. I should have tried to throw it up, but ego about looking foolish, and not being able to think clearly, didn't allow me to vomit publicly. To this day," admits Mr. Gardner, "I don't remember or know how I recouped enough to make it back to my car and then drive home, which was a 20-minute ride. The next five days I was totally bed-ridden."

"I took three coffee enemas a day; my wife helped me, doing all that was necessary. The tumor's toxic effects were manifold – headaches, vomiting, abdominal cramps, flu-like aches and pains of the joints and muscles, fever, sleeplessness, fast pulse, dry mouth, no appetite, constipation, and many other troubles," the taxidermist notes. "I was in an awful state!"

"But on the sixth day I felt better and was able to walk around. Because of that experience, I have done my homework and am experientially educated far beyond my IQ, concerning the human body and nutrition." Kent Gardner says. "All living cells and organisms on this planet need water, food, and air. It is the quality, not the quantity, that determines perfect health, or disease. You can't trash and pollute your body and expect to have perfect health. What all of us need are daily coffee enemas, something I do on a regular basis – cancer or not."

## ORIGINS OF COFFEE ENEMAS AS GERSON THERAPY

The much disputed, ridiculed and controversial coffee enemas have an unusual origin in becoming a primary component of the Gerson Therapy. Certainly enemas are not new; they have been transcribed as part of the *Manual of Discipline*, recorded 2,000 years ago, comprising one of the books in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also, *The Essene Gospel of Peace*, a third century Aramaic manuscript found in the Secret Archives of the Vatican, strongly advises about the taking of enemas in the following manner:<sup>1</sup>

*I tell you truly, the angel of water shall cast out of your body all uncleanness which defiled it without and within. And all unclean, and evil-smelling things shall flow out of you, even as the uncleannesses of garments washed in water flow away and are lost in the stream of the river. I tell you truly, holy is the angel of water who cleanses all that is unclean, and makes all evil-smelling things of a sweet odor...*

*Think not that it is sufficient that the angel of water embrace you outwards only. I tell you truly, the uncleanness within is greater by much than the uncleanness without. And he who cleanses himself without, but within remains unclean, is like to tombs that outwards are painted fair, but are within full of all manner of horrible uncleannesses and abominations. So I tell you truly, suffer the angel of water to baptize you also within, that you may become free from all your past sins, and that within likewise you may become as pure as the river's foam sporting in the sunlight...*

So the use of enemas for general purposes of detoxification have been ancient in practice. More than likely, however, the use of coffee to increase the effectiveness of treatment and for reducing of pain probably dates back only to the time of the First World War. A Gerson Therapy exponent, Dr. Jerry Walters, tells the following story about the original administrations of enemas containing the coffee beverage:

*During World War I, Germany was surrounded by the Allies' military forces, and many imported materials were short or missing for German citizens. Among other things, morphine was running very low in supply. Also there was hardly any coffee available to drink. Moreover, pain killers, anesthetics, and other drugs were lacking too. When soldiers were sent back from the front lines, severely wounded, and in need of surgery, there usually was just a bit of anesthesia available – perhaps only enough to get them through the surgical operation.*

*Upon the anesthesia wearing off, obviously the pain set in for the wounded soldier. In many cases, after the doctors finished operating, they ordered plain water enemas for the patients. But the nurses were desperately looking for something more to help the soldiers deal with their pain.*

*It happened that there was always coffee brewing, available only for the surgeons to drink. They often had to work around the clock, and needed to be kept awake by caffeine in the beverage. Sometimes, a little of their black coffee was left over. Apparently, some nurse had the idea that, since the coffee was doing the surgeons good, perhaps it would also help the soldiers. So, the nurses poured a quantity of the leftover coffee into the soldiers' enema buckets. These soldiers receiving coffee enemas reported that such ablutions were doing them some good, and that their pain was much relieved.*

These reports coming out of the First World War aroused the interest of two researchers, Professor Dr. med. O.A. Meyer, MD, and Professor Dr. med. Martin Heubner, MD, at the German University of Geottingen's College of Medicine. (See Dr. Max Gerson's lecture which describes this occurrence, reproduced in its entirety in Appendix II of *A Cancer Therapy: Results of Fifty Cases*.) During the decade of the 1920s, these two medical professors further examined the effect of caffeine when given rectally to rats. They observed that the caffeinated enemas stimulated the

laboratory animals' bile ducts to open, and the professors then published their findings in the German medical literature.

For some time after learning of this research by Professors Meyer and Heubner, Dr. Max Gerson used a combination of the two drugs, caffeine and potassium citrate, in the form of drops which were added to the enema water. But he found later that a solution simply made by boiling coffee grounds possibly was more effective and much more easily available to everybody who wanted to take coffee enemas. This, Dr. Gerson incorporated the program of detoxification using coffee enemas into the Gerson Therapy, and the same procedure remains today.<sup>2</sup>

## THE BENEFICIAL ACTION OF A COFFEE ENEMA

Enemas made from drip-ground boiled coffee have proven themselves as an advantageous means of restoring a dysfunctional liver. The caffeine drug in coffee administered as an enema definitely detoxifies the liver and is a primary therapeutic approach of the Gerson Therapy. "This treatment should be followed strictly, both in the clinic and later at home, for at least two years... The liver is the main organ for the regeneration of the body's metabolism for the transformation of food from intake to output," writes Dr. Gerson.<sup>3</sup>

During a 1985 conference on cancer treatment conducted by the late alternative treatment cancer specialist Harold Manner, PhD, held at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Manner discussed the internal workings of a coffee enema. He announced to the audience that he learned about these physiological actions from Dr. Max Gerson, who had expounded on the subject at least thirty years before. He then gave Dr. Gerson full credit for developing this liver detoxification technique for the treatment of cancer. The next few paragraphs are paraphrased statements which Dr. Manner offered when he described the body's cleansing mechanism that occurs from coffee enemas.

While the coffee enema is being retained in the bowel (for an optimum period ranging from twelve to fifteen minutes), all of the body's blood passes through the liver every three minutes. The hemorrhoidal blood vessels dilate from exposure to the caffeine, in turn the liver's portal veins dilate too. Simultaneously, the bile ducts expand with blood, the bile flow increases, and the smooth muscles of these internal organs relax. The blood serum and its many components get detoxified as this vital fluid passes through the individual's caffeinated liver. The quart of water being retained in the bowel stimulates the visceral nervous system promoting peristalsis. So much water delivered through the bowel dilutes the bile, and causes an even greater increase in bile flow. There is a flushing of toxic bile which is further affected by the body's enzymatic catalyst known to physiologists as glutathione-S-transferase (GST).

The GST is increased in quantity in the small bowel by 700%, which is an excellent physiological effect, because this enzyme quenches free radicals. These quenched radicals leave the liver and gallbladder as bile salts flowing through the duodenum. The bile salts get carried away by peristalsis in the gut, traveling from the small intestine, through the colon, and out the rectum.

In 1990, the Austrian surgeon Peter Lechner, MD, and his colleagues who had been investigating Dr. Gerson's cancer treatment, discussed the benefits of increasing quantities of glutathione-S-transferase in the gut. Dr. Lechner wrote:<sup>4</sup>

- GST binds bilirubin and its glucuronides so that they can be eliminated from the hepatocytes (liver cells).
- GST blocks and detoxifies carcinogens which require oxidation or reduction to be activated. Its catalytic function produces a protective effect against many chemical carcinogens.
- GST forms a co-valent bond with nearly all highly electrophilic (free radical) substances, which is the precondition of their elimination from the body. The intermediate products of potential liver poisons (*hepatotoxic cytostatics*) also belong in this category of forming free radical pathology.

Before the above published finding, Dr. Lechner had decided in 1984 that the coffee enema had a very specific purpose: lowering serum toxins. His medical report states, "Coffee enemas have a definite effect on the colon which can be observed with an endoscope. Wattenberg and coworkers were able to prove in 1981 that the palmitic acid found in coffee promotes the activity of [an enzyme] glutathione S-transferase and other ligands by manyfold times above the normal. It is this enzyme group which is responsible primarily for the conjugation of free electrophile radicals which the gall bladder will then release."<sup>5</sup>

Starting in the late 1970s, the laboratory owned and supervised by biochemist Lee W. Wattenberg, PhD, identified two salts of palmitic acid, cafestol palmitate and kahweol palmitate (both present in coffee) as the potent intensifiers of glutathione S-transferase. Such enhancement turns this enzyme into a major detoxification system that catalyzes the binding of a vast variety of electron acceptors (the electrophiles) from the blood stream to the sulfhydryl group of glutathione. Because the reactive ultimate carcinogenic forms of chemicals are electrophiles, the glutathione S-transferase system becomes an important mechanism for cleaning away any existing cancer cells (carcinogenic detoxification).<sup>6-8</sup>

This detoxifying of cancer cells has been proven innumerable times by experiments on laboratory mice wherein detoxification of the liver increases by 600% and the small bowel detoxifies by 700% when the coffee beans are added to the animals' diet. Analogous results in the mice can be transposed into the similar effect taking place within humans who are using coffee enemas.<sup>9-11</sup>

## COFFEE ENEMAS CAUSE EXCRETION OF CANCER BREAKDOWN PRODUCTS

The coffee enema has a very specific purpose in the treatment and reversal of degenerative diseases. As stated by Dr. Peter Lechner, it lowers the quantity of blood serum toxins, literally cleaning the poisons out of the fluids nourishing normal cells. Invariably, some small quantity of poisons are contained therein. Each cell is challenged by toxins, oxygen starvation, malnutrition, or trauma which collectively alter the cell's molecular configuration and cause it to lose its preference for potassium. Sodium competes with potassium for association sites in damaged cells.

Loss of cellular potassium and increase of cellular sodium results in decreased electron flow through the damaged cell, which some biochemists refer to as a *macromolecule*. This injured macromolecule becomes unattractive to paramagnetic ions and a subsequent disorganization of water molecules may take place. Because bulk phase water, structured in a high-energy state, is the main mechanism controlling cellular water content and purity, any disturbance in water structuring will result in the cell swelling with excess water and extracellular solutes. Upon the internal environment of the macromolecule not becoming polluted with excess water and extracellular materials, mitochondrial production of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) is greatly impaired. The result is that macromolecules cannot produce sufficient energy to repair themselves unless the challenge is removed.

Endogenous serum toxins can be generated within macromolecules by bacteria, and by malignant cells. It's been observed that surrounding almost any active malignancies are spheres of damaged normal tissue in which water structuring is impaired by the chronic insult of tumor toxins. Energy production and immunity are depressed in these macromolecules which are swollen with excess salt and water. Such damaged tissues possesses a decreased blood circulation because oversized edematous cells crowd together inside the capillaries, arterioles, and lymph ducts.<sup>12</sup>

Teaching that improved blood circulation and tissue integrity would prevent the spread and cause the destruction of malignancies, Max Gerson, MD, held as axiomatic that no cancer could exist in the presence of normal metabolism. Dr. Gerson's favorite example of the fact was that the tissues of healthy laboratory animals receiving transplanted malignant tumors quickly kill these tumors by the process of inflammation which arises in the healthy animal hosts. They defend themselves against such foreign proteins. In order to cause transplanted malignant cells to "take" in the

experimental animals, laboratory technicians must first damage the animals' thyroid and adrenal glands. Of course, Dr. Gerson's desire was to create a near-normal metabolism in tissues surrounding the patients' existing malignant tumors.

Enzyme systems in the liver and small bowel are responsible for conversion and neutralization of the four most common tissue toxins, polyamines, ammonia, toxic-bound nitrogen, and electrophiles, all of which can cause cell and membrane damage. Such protective liver and gut enzyme systems are massively increased in their beneficial effects by coffee enemas. Twenty years after his death, editors at the scientific journal, *Physiological Chemistry and Physics*, complimented Dr. Gerson by reprinting one of his works. They affirmed, "Caffeine enemas cause dilation of bile ducts, which facilitates excretion of toxic cancer breakdown products by the liver and dialysis of toxic products from blood across the colonic wall."<sup>13</sup>

## **PAIN RELIEF RESULTS FROM TAKING COFFEE ENEMAS**

Prior to the reported findings of both Dr. Lee W. Wattenberg and Dr. Peter Lechner, medical journalist Mark F. McCarty, in 1981 wrote in the journal, *Medical Hypotheses*,<sup>14</sup> "At the Senate Select Subcommittee hearing on cancer research in 1946,<sup>15</sup> five independent medical doctors who had had personal experience with patients treated by Dr. Gerson, submitted letters indicating that they had been surprised and encouraged by the results they had seen, and urged a widespread trial of the method [taking coffee enemas]." One of these doctors claimed that "relief of severe pain was achieved in about 90% of cases."

Observations recorded back in 1946 were true then and remain correct today in the same way. While taking coffee as an enema often evokes astonishment and mirth in persons who don't usually experience enemas, as well as in those who emphatically prefer to drink their coffee at the nearby Starbucks™, these same people would benefit immensely from coffee enemas. They could get rid of their pain and other discomforts, whatever the source, by accepting the value of this detoxification method. From the patient's point of view, no matter which degenerative disease is causing symptoms, the coffee enema means relief from general nervous tension, depression, many allergy-related symptoms and, most importantly, relief from severe pain.

## **COFFEE ENEMAS STIMULATE BILE FLOW**

The coffee enema is in a class by itself as a therapeutic agent. In no way does the oral administration of coffee have the same effect as its rectal administration. On the contrary, drinking coffee virtually insures reabsorption of toxic bile. While other agents classed as stimulators of bile flow (choleretics) do increase bile production from the liver, they hardly enhance any detoxifying by that organ's enzyme systems. Instead, choleretics do nothing to ensure the passage of bile from the intestines. It's a physiological fact that bile is normally reabsorbed up to ten times by the body before working its way out of the intestines in feces.

The enzyme-intensifying ability of the coffee enema is unique among choleretics. Because it does not allow reabsorption of toxic bile by the liver across the gut wall, it is an effective means of detoxifying the blood stream through existing enzyme systems in both the liver and small intestines. In as much as clinical practice has taught clinicians utilizing the Gerson Therapy that coffee enemas are well-tolerated by patients when used as frequently as every four hours in a 24-hour period, the coffee enema should be categorized in the medical literature as the only non-reabsorbed, effective, repeatable choleretic agent. Such a classification could go far to bring about the healing of pathologies which require quick absorption and no reuse of bile.

## **SUMMARIZING THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF COFFEE ENEMAS**

Dr. Gerson hypothesized on the physiological actions and effects of coffee enemas and witnessed that his theory proved out as factual benefits. Introducing a quart of boiled coffee solution into the colon will accomplish the following physiological benefits:

- It dilutes portal blood and, subsequently, the bile.
- Theophylline and theobromine, major nutraceuticals constituents of coffee, dilate blood vessels and counter inflammation of the gut.
- The palmitates of coffee enhance glutathione S-transferase which is responsible for the removal of many toxic radicals from blood serum.
- The fluid of the enema itself stimulates the cisceral nervous system promoting peristalsis and the transit of diluted toxic bile from the duodenum out the rectum.
- Because the stimulating enema is retained for up to fifteen minutes, and because all the blood in the body passes through the liver nearly every three minutes, coffee enemas represent a form of dialysis of blood across the gut wall.

Coffee enemas are safe when used within the context of the combined regime of the Gerson Therapy. Dr. Gerson's stated intention in supplying the sodium restricted, high potassium, high micronutrient diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, was to supply all nutrients, known and unknown, which are necessary for cell respiration and energy production. High potassium, low sodium environments tend to return cell macromolecules to normal configuration states and to improve water structuring and water content. The addition by the farsighted doctor of supplemental potassium salts as acetate, gluconate, and phosphate monobasic to the diet, in which malate is supplied by frequent use of apples, improves the efficiency of the tricarboxylic acid (Kreb's) cycle in mitochondrial energy production. The Kreb's cycle is a series of enzyme reactions in which the body uses carbohydrates, proteins, and fats to yield carbon dioxide, water, and energy for organ functions.

Animal protein restriction, employed by Dr. Gerson as a temporary aspect of treatment for his degenerative disease patients, was observed even in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to aid in the reduction of cellular edema. Administration of high loading doses of thyroid hormone and Lugol's solution result in multiplication of mitochondria, which have their own DNA and RNA and replicate independently of the cell. Thyroid is known to improve cell oxidation of sugars and therefore ATP production so that cell energy is markedly increased.

These numerous treatment mechanisms, including coffee enemas proposed by Dr. Max Gerson achieve numbers of physiological benefits. They:

- Reduce blood serum toxins to eliminate chronic challenge to damaged normal cells (macromolecules),
- Improve cell potassium ion content,
- Reduce cell sodium content,
- Reduce cell swelling through improved water structuring,
- Increase cell mitochondria count and activity,
- Supply micronutrients necessary for cell energy production and repair.

For a person attempting to cope with any form of chronic or acute illness occurring from some degenerative disease, the achievement of low blood serum toxin levels by the regular administration of coffee enemas is basic to achieving increased cell energy production, enhanced tissue integrity, improved blood circulation, boosted immunity, better tissue repair, and cellular regeneration. All of these advantageous physiological effects have been observed clinically to result from the administration of the combined regime of the Gerson healing program. Unquestionably, taking coffee enemas is among the most vital aspects of the Gerson Therapy.

[because the road to health is paved with good intestines!!!!](#)

## Resources

For more information about coffee enemas or about the Gerson Therapy overall, contact Andrew Printer, Executive Director of the Gerson Institute, 3130 Bonito Road, Suite 207, Chula Vista, California 91910-3263 USA. Send mail to PO Box 430, Bonita, California 91908-0430 USA; Phone 619-585-7600; Fax 619-585-7610

Email: [gersoninst@aol.com](mailto:gersoninst@aol.com) or

[Andrew@gerson.org](mailto:Andrew@gerson.org) or

[info@gerson.org](mailto:info@gerson.org)

## References

1. Szekely E.B. *The Essene Gospel of Peace*. (London: International Biogenic Society, 1981), pp. 15 and 16.
2. Gerson, M. The cure of advanced cancer by diet therapy: A summary of 30 years of clinical experimentation. Appendix II in *A Cancer Therapy: Results of Fifty Cases*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Bonita, California: Gerson Institute, 1977), pp. 407 and 408.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 247.
4. Lechner, P. and Kronberger, I. Erfahrungen mit dem Einsatz der Diat. Therapie in der chirurgischen Onkologie. *Aktuel ernahrungmedizin*. 2(15):72-78, 1990.
5. Lechner, P. Dietary regime to be used in oncological postoperative care. *Proceedings of the Oesterreicher Geseilsehaft fur Chirurgie*. June 21-23, 1984.
6. Chasseaud, L.F. The role of glutathione S-transferases in the metabolism of chemical carcinogens and other electrophilic agents. *Advanced Cancer Research*. 29:175-274, 1979.
7. Jakoby, W.B. A group of multifunctional detoxification proteins. *Advanced Enzymology and Related Areas of Molecular Biology*. 46:383-414, 1978.
8. Spornins, V.L. and Wattenberg, LW. Enhancements of glutathione S-transferase activity of the mouse forestomach by inhibitors of benzo[a]pyrene-induced neoplasia of forestomach. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. 66:769-771, 1981.
9. Spornins, V.L. Effects of dietary constituents on (G-S-T) glutathione S-transferase activity. *Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Researchers and the American Society of Clinical Oncologists*. 21:80, Abstract 319. 1980.
10. Spornins, V.L.; Lam, L.K.T.; Wattenberg, LW. Effects of coffee on the glutathione S-transferase (G-S-T) activity and 7-12-dimethylbenz(a)anthracene DMBA-induced neoplasia. *Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Researchers and the American Society of Clinical Oncologists*. 22:114, Abstract 453, 1981.
11. Lam, L.K.T.; Spanins, V.L.; Wattenberg, LW. Isolation and identification of kahweol palmitate and cafestol palmitate as active constituents of green coffee beans that enhance glutathioae S-transferase activity in the mouse. *Cancer Research*. 42:1193-1198, 1982.
12. Cope, F.W. Pathology of structured water and associated citions in cells (the tissue damage syndrome) and its medical treatment. *Physiological Chemistry and Physics*. 9(6c547-553. 1977.
13. Gerson, M. The cure of advanced cancer by diet therapy: a summary of 30 years of clinical experimentation. *Physiological Chemistry and Physics*. 10(5):449-464, 1978.
14. McCarty, M. Aldosterone and the Gerson diet – a speculation. *Medical Hypotheses*. 7:591-597, 1981.
15. Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, 1946. Seventy-ninth Congress, Second Session, Hearings on Bill S. 1975, pp. 95-126. (Washington. D.C.; United States Government Printing Office. July 1,2. And 3, 1946).
16. Hildenbrand, G. A coffee enema? Now I've heard everything. Gerson<sup>tm</sup> *Healing Newsletter* #13, May/June 1986, p. 99.

Reprinted from the Townsend Letter for Doctors & Patients, #216 July 2001.

because the road to health is paved with good intestines!!!!