False belief about etiology of cancer

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Abstract: To many, the etiology of cancer remains one of the mysterious myths among many of patients suffering
of cancer in spite of the plenty of information available nowadays. Even though, many cancer patients can be
treated and their diseases can be cured, they are still blaming others for the etiology of their suffering, specially their
friends, family members or neighbors. In our area, many cancer patients continue to believe in false idea (al-ain) as a
cause of their cancer. This believes can lead to cultivation of fears and affect the relation of cancer patients to their
close relatives, friends and even can interfere with cancer management. It is important, therefore, to study this myth
and explore if it has any role in relation to the etiology of cancer disease.

Keywords: al-ain, cancer, cause, exponential, patients

Introduction
The relationship between physical and
psychological health is obscure. Currently, there is no
evidence that stress, death of relatives, divorce and
others adverse life events are a direct cause of cancer.1

There is no yet clinical evidence that alain can
cause or contribute to cancer and to my knowledge this
is the first study about al-ain as a cause of cancer.
When patients are diagnosed with cancer, they are very
often desperate to find any reason or explanation for
their disease. Some of the patients believe alain is the
causes of cancer. The patients said this is an effect of
visual array which initiate cancer and lead to imminent
death.

In this study, we evaluate if there is correlation of
al-ain as described by the patients, with their malignant
disease.

Patients and methods:
This study was carried out at King Fahd
Hospital of the University at al-khobar. It is an open
interview and questions with patients suffering of
cancer. We interviewed only patients who mentioned
al-ain as the cause of their cancer and patients who did
not mention al-ain were not included in this study. This
interview was accomplished in 2 days. In the first day,
data about al-ain were collected and in the second day
close review of the symptoms of the patients were
carried out. The description of al-ain and information
related to al-ain are reflective of the patients view.
Devil person is the person who is able to use al-ain to
cause immediate harm. Al-ain is the adverse outcome
of talk or touch of devil person by mentioning the
patient’s good health, appetite or look. The talk or the
touch of the devil person should be accompanied with
surprise without faith of god.

Results:
A total of 42 patients were included in this
study as shown in table1. These patients had different
type of cancer. 22 (52.38%) patients were male and 20
(47.62%) were female. In all patients, prior to
symptoms review, 100%, the symptoms of cancer were
coincidental to al-ain. Ninety-five percent had at least
tumor ≥ 3cm or metastatic disease at the time of al-ain.
All of them they hatred talk or touch with talk from the
devil person mentioning their good health or nice look
and immediately started to complain of symptoms as
shown in table1. Twenty-seven (64.28%) of the devil
persons were relative of the patients. These devil
persons had history of breaking cars, glasses and
causing harm to others but none of these events were
witnessed by the patients themselves as shown in
table2. Table3 show that 40 (95.24%) of the patients
had many symptoms prior to al-ain time of at least 2
weeks. Only 2 (4.76%) had coincidental symptoms.

Discussion
Several cancer patients believed that cancer was
caused by many factors such as family history, lifestyle
and a trigger such as a virus or stress. In our area,
cancer patients believed al-ain is a cause in adition to
what mentioned above.
Neoplasm arises from transformed cells by multi-
step carcinogenesis. This process of pre-clinical satge
include: initiation, promotion and conversion to
malignant cells. The stage from preneoplasia to the
stage of conversion to malignant cells extend from months to years. This length of time prior to suffering of cancer symptoms is the first important factor against al-ain as a cause of cancer in this study.

Exponential growth of converted malignant cells is cellular division with a constant dividing time. One cell divides into two and then four, etc., with each doubling taking the same time. This growth is easily recognizable when graphed. It is a straight line on a semi-log scale.\(^8,9\)

The number of cells is described by the equation \(2^n\) where \(n\) is the number of doublings that have taken place. Tissue density is approximately a billion cells per cubic centimeter (cc). A billion is approximately \(2^{30}\). Ignoring the normal cells, a 1 cc tumor started as a single cancer cell that has divided 30 times to cause symptoms. Data show the time for a breast cancer to double in volume is 25 days to at least 1000 days with a typical value of about 100 days. Combining this information, we can estimate the usual preclinical time of breast cancer as 30 doublings at 100 day or a total of 8 years.\(^10\)

Table 1 indicate that all patients said that al-ain was affected them on the day they start to complain of symptoms. That mean the malignant cells have reached large size with long time prior to cause these symptoms. This paradox of exponential growth time of beginning of cancer and the timing of al-ain is the second important factor against al-ain as a cause of cancer.

The third important reason against al-ain as a cause of cancer that the old events of the devil persons were not witnessed or watched by the patients. The patients said they hair about these events only even though 40% of these devil persons were close relatives.

The fourth important factor against al-ain as a cause of cancer is the review of the symptoms of the patients. Table 3, shows that 95% of those patients actually had symptoms prior to the al-ain events time and only about 5%, the two events were coincidental. All of the patients said that al-ain and the disease should be coincidental and occurs on the same time. However, close review of their symptoms show that it is not the case, rolling out what they belief (al-ain) is the cause of their cancer.

In summary, the pre-clinical stage or the multi-step carcinogenesis, the exponential growth of the transformed malignant cells, the un-witnessed previous events and the presence of symptoms prior to al-ain indicated that al-ain is a false belief as a cause of cancer in this study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Time of symptoms</th>
<th>Time of al-ain</th>
<th>Average Size of mass</th>
<th>Description of how devil person affected them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 M</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>3x4cm</td>
<td>Patients heard verbal talk from someone and immediately start to complain of symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>AML</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 F</td>
<td>Breast ca</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>3x2 cm with metastasis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 M</td>
<td>CML</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>Pancreatic</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>2x3 with liver met.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 M</td>
<td>Prostates ca</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>Hematuria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Devil person</th>
<th>Relations with patients</th>
<th>Type of old events done by devil person</th>
<th>Witnessed events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12 with close relation</td>
<td>Break glass, Break watch, Break cars and tires</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15 with close relation</td>
<td>Break glass, Break watch, Break cars and tires</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Start of symptoms</th>
<th>Symptoms at the Time of alain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 weeks -12 weeks prior to alain time: fatigue, loss of weight, feeling of not the right person, anorexia</td>
<td>Pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>2 weeks to 4 weeks prior to al-ain time: sleep disturbance, fever, anorexia, weight loss, stress and anxiety and hematuria</td>
<td>Pain or fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pain at the same time and were normal prior to al-ain time</td>
<td>Pain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References