Sarah Wright

BIO 101

Critique 6

The article that I found that examines a cancer treatment procedure is about how pancreatic cancer can be treated laparoscopically. The title of the article that I found on cancer treatment procedures is “Pancreatic cancer treated laparoscopically” (http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/health/pancreatic-cancer-treated-laporoscopically-1.1714392). The author of “Pancreatic cancer treated laparoscopically” is Samihah Zaman. He is a staff reporter for Gulf News Health. The publication date of “Pancreatic cancer treated laparoscopically” was April 17, 2016. The main idea of the article was that a man named imam (A.M.) who was 79 years old had pancreatic cancer in Pakistan. The only way to have even a chance of survival is to remove all of the cancer cells entirely and completely from the body. Previously, the only way to completely remove cancer from the body was to make large incisions and remove the cancer entirely that way. Using this method it was close to impossible to completely remove every single cancer cell. Pancreatic cancer is lethal and most people who have pancreatic cancer end up dying from pancreatic cancer. A.M. wanted to fight his pancreatic cancer and survive after having his pancreatic cancer removed. Using the old method A.M. would have large incisions from where his pancreatic cancer would have been removed by a surgeon. A.M. went to a hospital named Tawaam Hospital which is located in Seha and is under the supervision of Abu Dhabi Health Services Company. The surgeon approached taking the cancer out of A.M.’s body laparoscopically, which means A.M. would not have large incisions on his body and it would be an easier surgery to recover from. The procedure that A.M. received is called the Whipple Procedure. The Whipple Procedure involves removing part of the small intestine, the gall bladder, and a part of the pancreas. The procedure was successful in removing the cancer from the body of A.M. The pancreas of A.M. was reconnected to his stomach after the cancer was removed from his pancreas. The pain level that the patient experiences using the Whipple Method is significantly lower than the pain level that a patient suffers from and experiences after they undergo surgery using the traditional method. A.M. had a six to nine percent survival chance predictions if he underwent the original, traditional surgery. A.M.’s survival rate of twenty five percent after five years. Twenty five is significantly higher than six percent. A.M. is happy about his chances of living a longer life increasing. The surgeons at the hospital plan to do more surgeries laparoscopically, especially after how well the surgery went on the man in the hospital in Abu Dhabi. The procedure that was covered in this article was specific to pancreatic cancer, but I believe that it could be adapted to remove cancer cells in other parts of the body. It is beneficial to the patient to have surgeries performed laparoscopically. The cost of this procedure is the same as the cost of the original, traditional surgery. The surgeon still needs to remove the cancer, but it is easier to do without completely opening the body up. The risk of infection for the patient decreases. Overall, the new surgical method for removing cancer in the pancreas is beneficial to patients.

Cancer is something that has affected my family for several years and generations. Cancer is a deadly disease that several of my family members have passed away from. This assignment has really touched my heart as I really do want a drug to be created that will cure the spread of cancer and will help develop a lifelong cure for the disease. Cancer is deadly because it is a mutation in a cell. The cell is mutated so that it keeps growing and growing and growing. The cell duplicates and duplicates and does not know when to stop, so that a mass is created that keeps getting bigger and bigger. Cellular division is what allows the cell to continue to duplicate. In a normal cell, the cell knows when it is time to stop duplicating and only duplicates when it is replacing cells that have died. Cancer cells just reproduce to spread, not to replace dead cells. The regulation that is present in a normal cell that stops it from reproducing is not present in the cancer cell. The cancer cell’s mutation stops the cell from being able to regulate its growth and it also prevents the body from regulating the cell’s cellular division. The body would need something that would prevent unhealthy, mutated cells from reproducing. The trouble comes into play because the drug could not prevent the healthy cells from reproducing. It is necessary for the body’s healthy cells to reproduce so that the healthy cells could replace the cells that have died in the body. The body would have to regulate the drug so that it would only affect the mutated cells or the drug would have to only affect the cells that have the cancer mutation that made them continuously reproduce that are harmful to the human body. The human body does not have a defense of its own to fight the continuous replication of the cells due to the molecular mutation. The hypothetical drug that I would create would be a drug that would know exactly where to go in the human body and would know which cells have a mutation and that those cells were the cells that were harming the human body. The continuous reproduction of the cells damages the body severely because the cells require resources from the body. The mutated cells still require blood flow and nutrients. The drug that I am hypothetically designing would cut off the blood flow from the mutated cancer cells and then the mutated cancer cells would die and would stop dividing and spreading, which in turn creates more cancer cells that the body would have to fight off. The drug would be heavily involved in preventing the unregulated spread of cancer cells in the human body. A drug of this caliber would have to be highly regulated by medical doctors specializing in the study of the drug, because if someone who did not have cancer took the pill that was meant to stop the spread of cancer then the person would become extremely ill. I hope that someone develops a drug or a cure for cancer.