

Against which tumours can Anti-Angiogenesis therapy be applied?

- So far, angiogenesis inhibitors have been approved for the treatment of colon, breast, lung and kidney cancer. However, antiangiogenic agents are effective against almost all tumours. Currently, there are a number of clinical trials in which the use of angiogenesis inhibitors in many other tumour types, alone and in combination with traditional chemotherapy, is being further examined. As an international competence centre for cancer treatment, the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis has placed one of its research focuses on the further development of angiogenesis inhibitors. Therefore, the hospital also offers the possibility of off-label use. This means that patients can be treated with angiogenesis inhibitors even if the therapy has not been approved for their particular type of cancer. The medical director at the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis and his team provide the necessary longstanding experience to use these new therapies under controlled conditions for the well being of the individual patient.

About the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis

- The Cancer Hospital SanaFontis in Freiburg, Germany, is an international competence centre for individualized cancer treatment. The centre was opened in the spring of 2006 and offers standard methods as well as innovative therapies while maintaining the highest medical standards. One of these therapies is the treatment with angiogenesis inhibitors. The concept of individual cancer therapy places the wishes and needs of the patient at the centre of the actions by doctors and nursing staff. With its international, multi-disciplinary team the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis treats patients from all over the world. In addition, the special needs of patients, such as dietary habits, religion or integration of the family members, are considered during their stay at the hospital. It offers various room categories including apartments.

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Anti-Angiogenesis Therapy: What is it all about?

New strategies against cancers: Anti-Angiogenesis Therapy

- SanaFontis, the international Cancer Hospital in Freiburg, offers patients cutting-edge strategies for the treatment of various tumours. Anti-angiogenesis treatment, the use of drugs to stop tumours from developing new blood vessels, is an important therapeutic strategy. By inhibiting angiogenesis the blood supply to the tumour is cut off, thereby influencing its growth. Clinical studies have shown that these angiogenesis inhibitors not only have the potential to halt tumour growth but also to reduce its size, consequently contributing to prolonging a patient's life. In this flyer the Medical Director of SanaFontis, Dr. Joachim Dreves, explains how this therapy works. The internationally renowned cancer specialist had a decisive influence on the development of angiogenesis inhibitors and now offers his longstanding experience to the patients of the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis.

What precisely is tumour Anti-Angiogenesis?

- As with healthy tissue, malignant tumours are provided with an infrastructure by blood vessels. Tumours can only continue to grow if they are able to generate their own blood vessels to permanently supply nutrients and oxygen. The new vessels also allow the cancer to metastasise in other organs, which is one reason the disease is so life threatening. Anti-angiogenesis therapy aims to inhibit the generation of blood

vessels and prevent tumour growth. In simple terms, the cancer is starved and killed through the targeted destruction of the newly generated blood vessels.

Can cancer be cured with Anti-Angiogenesis inhibitors?

- Unfortunately the new therapies are not curing cancer at this point in time. Angiogenesis inhibitors, however allow for a much better tumour control as the medication influences cancer growth. For cancer patients, this is excellent news since with early diagnosis and treatment they can often live with their disease for many years, often without any serious side effects. Many findings indicate that anti-angiogenesis therapy will make an essential contribution to transforming cancer into a chronic disease, such as rheumatism or diabetes, which is no longer life threatening.



Joachim Dreves, MD, PhD, Medical Director

How long does the therapy have to be administered and are there any side-effects?

- Fundamentally, treatment with angiogenesis inhibitors is possible until the effects are reduced. There are minor side effects associated with the treatment, and one in three patients experiences high blood pressure, which can be treated with medication.