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High-Dose IV Vitamin C and IV Artemisinin for Cancer Support: Benefits, Safety, and Integrative Oncology

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January 18, 2026 · Updated January 24, 2026

When someone is diagnosed with cancer, the first focus is understandably on conventional treatments like surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy. Yet many people navigating cancer care often find themselves without support of their healthy cells. They find themselves weakening through conventional therapies and losing hope. This is when supportive integrative cancer therapies find their way to optimizing health even in the midst of crisis.

Research has shown integrative or naturopathic cancer supportive therapies can improve quality of life and survival rates. Intravenous (IV) therapies like high-dose vitamin C and IV Artemisinin may play a potential role in enhancing quality of life, supporting immunity, or even modulating tumor microbiology.

While neither therapy is a stand-alone cure for cancer, emerging research and clinical experience suggest they may offer supportive benefits when used *alongside conventional treatment* under careful medical supervision.

What Is Intravenous (IV) Vitamin C and Why Does It Matter?

Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) is best known as a powerful antioxidant, especially at *lower* doses. In oral form or at intravenous doses below about *25 grams,* vitamin C supports immune health, tissue repair, and overall wellness.

When taken by mouth, absorption is limited by the gut, and doses above *3 grams* can cause digestive upset like diarrhea. This is why oral vitamin C has a natural ceiling and cannot be tolerated well orally at high doses.

At *much higher doses (approximately 35 grams (35,000 mg) or more)*, even up to 90 grams, IV vitamin C behaves differently. It shifts into a *pro-oxidant* role, a property being studied for its potential to help the body fight infections and support cancer care. Administered intravenously, vitamin C can reach

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blood levels that are not achievable through oral supplementation. This is a key reason IV vitamin C is used in clinical settings.

High Dose IV Vitamin C Benefits

Scientific studies show that high-dose IV vitamin C:

- Reaches plasma concentrations far higher than oral vitamin C, which may have *pro-oxidant effects against tumor cells i*n laboratory settings. PubMed
- Acts as a *multi-targeting agent* in preclinical and early clinical trials, influencing immune pathways, epigenetic regulation, and tumor-related signaling. SpringerLink
- May reduce *chemotherapy-related side effects* (fatigue, nausea, insomnia) and improve quality of life. PubMed
- Does not interfere with the effects of chemotherapy or radiation but instead initial studies suggest that it may have a synergistic effect with these therapies. https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/physiology/articles/10.3389/fphys.2018.01182/full
- Has been associated with *improved survival* and progression-free outcomes when added to chemotherapy in clinical settings (e.g., a recent randomized phase II trial in metastatic pancreatic cancer showed overall survival doubled when IV vitamin C was combined with standard chemotherapy). Carver College of Medicine

Importantly, reviews and systematic analyses indicate that high-dose IV vitamin C appears *safe and well tolerated* in most patients and does not interfere with many standard cancer therapies, although it has not been conclusively proven to cure cancer on its own. PubMed

What Is IV Artemisinin (ART) and How Does It Work?

Artesunate is a derivative of *Artemisinin (ART)*, a plant (wormwood) originally used to treat malaria and parasites. In cancer research, Artemisinin and its derivatives have drawn interest because:

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- Cancer cells often absorb more *iron* than normal cells, and ART can react with that iron to produce *reactive oxygen species* that damage tumor cells. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8758560/
- Laboratory studies show ART can induce *mitochondrial-mediated apoptosis* (programmed cancer cell death) in various tumor cell types. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15330172/
- Early clinical and integrative oncology reports (such as work referenced from Bastyr Integrative Oncology Research Center) observed that combining IV ART with high-dose IV vitamin C was associated with *higher survival rates* in Stage IV breast cancer patients compared to vitamin C alone.https://bastyr.edu/about/news/integrative-oncology-study-draws-attention-promising-results
- A combination of IV high dose vitamin C, ART and Doxycycline in a recent published clinical study showed promising positive results in ovarian and breast cancer. https://juniperpublishers.com/ctoij/pdf/CTOIJ.MS.ID.556092.pdf

While these findings are preliminary and need validation in larger controlled trials, they provide a *biological rationale* for combining ART or its derivatives with IV vitamin C in supportive cancer care.

How IV Vitamin C and IV ART May Work Together

Some integrative oncology centers use a combined approach, often administering IV ART before high-dose IV vitamin C in treatment protocols. The idea is that:

- ART may make tumor cells more vulnerable through *oxidative stress mechanisms*,
- IV vitamin C may enhance immune function, modulate oxidative pathways, and support detoxification and quality of life.

Preliminary data from such combination protocols, though not yet mainstream or definitively proven, suggest improved survival and tolerability in some advanced cancer groups without additional adverse effects.

Evidence, Limitations, and What's Still Unknown

It's important to ground expectations in the evidence:

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- High-dose IV vitamin C has decades of clinical use, and multiple trials have shown it is safe and may improve quality of life and conventional treatment tolerability, even if its direct anti-cancer effects are not yet conclusively proven in large phase III trials. PubMed+1
- Early studies combining IV vitamin C with chemotherapy have shown improved survival outcomes in certain cancers like pancreatic cancer, suggesting a synergistic effect. Carver College of Medicine
- ART shows promise in preclinical models and small clinical reports, particularly when paired with IV vitamin C. Larger controlled human studies are still needed to establish consistent benefit and safety profiles. https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11033-020-05669-z
- Neither IV vitamin C nor IV ART should be viewed as replacements for evidence-based cancer treatments, but rather as *adjunctive therapies* that may support patients through conventional care.

A Holistic View: Wellness, Support, and Personalization

At **Holistique**, we emphasize *personalized care* that supports the whole person: body, immune system, and quality of life. IV vitamin C and IV ART may be options for individuals looking to:

- Reduce side effects of chemotherapy or radiation
- Support immune function and inflammation balance
- Improve energy, mood, or symptom burden
- Explore integrative approaches *alongside* conventional medicine
- Improve quality of life and outcomes

These therapies (though not yet FDA-approved) have generally favorable safety profiles when administered by experienced clinicians and selected based on individual health history, treatment plan, and goals.

Key Takeaway

High-dose IV vitamin C and IV ART are considered investigational supportive therapies in the integrative cancer space. Research suggests they are safe, may support immune function, improve quality of life, and could enhance outcomes when used with conventional treatments. More studies are needed to prove the decades of positive clinical outcomes.

If you're considering these options, it's essential to coordinate care with your oncology team to ensure safety and alignment with your overall treatment strategy. Contact Holistique by text or phone **(425) 451-0404** for a consult with our Integrative Cancer Specialist for a personalized supportive cancer care approach.

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