

NO MALIGNANT CELLS FOUND?

How to explain to your cancer patients what it means after successful cancer therapy or from “well patient screening” when their CTC’s/CSC’s numbers are “0” (“no malignant cells found”)

Dear Doctors,

As I have explained several times, every method has a limit of detection and our method has LoD as well. This limit is 1 cell/25ml of blood (typically one vial). That means that when we find no cells you need a period of several test over at least 12-24 months of zero to be more accurate that there are likely no malignant cells. So, in order to continue to treat the minimal residual disease cells, you should continue with the same SOT target as the cells that were isolated before the count went to “0”. The average adult weighing 150 to 180 pounds should have about 1.2 to 1.5 gallons of blood in the body. So, 25ml (1 vial) of blood from 1.2 gal. or 4,500 ml = (.0056 of total blood) and 25ml (1 vial) of blood from 1.5 gal. or 5,700 ml = .0044 of total blood). Your test is limited to only 25 ml of blood. With 1 cell/25ml = ~ 180 to 228 cells in total circulation!

If the clinician wants to stop any further treatment based on this one sample and take the chance that there are “no cells detected” in the entire blood system at all, that is their decision. If this is the case in these situations, we ask the clinician to send us and request no further treatment with SOT is required for this patient, then we will not send any further SOT as long as there are no cells detected by Oncotrace or Oncotrails.

We prefer to avoid the risk of being blamed for a relapse. We have lived through this with past similar experiences when the patient had a relapse and the clinicians and/or their patients would always try to put the blame on the lab.

I hope everyone understands that we try to avoid activities that will compromise the best clinical outcome or that will put RGCC at risk for someone else's fault and lack of understanding. Dr. Ray's opinion

From personal experience and thousands of tests over the past 16 years using RGCC Labs, I have yet to have any cancer patient maintain “no cells found” for over ~2-2.5 years. When I find out that the patient becomes positive again, I would start the SOT again. We now find it's prudent to continue the use of SOT (at ~6-9 months intervals) while testing with Oncocount, Trace or appropriate Oncotrail every 6-9 month. This is no different (but better and safer in my opinion) than followup scans. After several “no cells found” over a couple of years or so I put the patient on an a yearly RGCC (Count, Trace or Trail) unless symptoms warrant RGCC testing and/or scans sooner. Dr. Ray's opinion

What I recommend to our “no cells found” on our “well patient screening” patients are recommended to followup on a yearly basis as part of their yearly health evaluation. If they have any concerns or symptoms prior to their yearly check-up then call make an appointment sooner. Dr. Ray's opinion

Best to all,

Dr Papasotiriou, MD, PhD, C.Cy

Ray Hammon, DC, NMD, DCBCN