

Dr. Sears leans back in his chair, holds up one hand.

"Let's go back a minute..." he said. "A young physician in Hungary who is an intern gets a chicken farmer in who has stomach cancer."

Dr. Sears slaps his stomach.

"...He says to the guy you need surgery now if we're going to save your life. The guy says, 'I have 10,000 chickens that need to be processed and sent to market. I'm not about to be taken into surgery.' He says, 'You're really ill and you're going to die.' The guy says, 'Can't do it.' So he goes out to his chickens, and low and behold the chickens get Newcastle's Disease Virus and he loses half his flock. And he's in there working with the birds and they're blowing stuff, sneezing and he's sucking it up."

He makes a fake sneeze, sucks it back up, gestures with hands.

"He gets a little bit of conjunctivitis. Gets his chickens to market. He empties his place out and goes back to the doctor says, 'OK, I'm ready for surgery. The doctor examines him. The cancer's gone.'" (Csatory 1971)<sup>66</sup>

Dr. Sears leans his head back. His eyes go wide with wonder.

"It's gone," he said. "The doctor says 'not possible.' Can't happen.

The doctor, Laszlo Csatory, develops a variation on the Newcastle Disease Virus – MTH-68. This variation went on to be used in research to treat other disease and cancers, such as in brain and breast cancer.

"It's being done in Europe. It's being done in Israel. I don't know of any cases being treated in the United States.

"The corollary to this is I treated one case," he said. "Stomach cancer, successfully. The dog died last year, nine years after we diagnosed it. We diagnosed it with an ultrasound and a biopsy. So, we knew what we were dealing with."

The dog had thickened stomach lining and was vomiting blood.

"So I said to the guy, look I just read this article. Are you willing to try? One of my breeders. He said, 'if you think it will work. Let's do it.' So, the trick was to give a shot of the NDV virus vaccine every day for seven days. The dog stopped vomiting. We did an ultrasound; the stomach went back to normal. The dog lived nine more years."

"One case," he said, holding up a finger. "Does that make a reason to start the world afire? ... No.... But if I had stomach cancer, I would sure as hell pull my NDV virus vaccine bottle out, and I would give myself a shot tomorrow."

He went on to discuss other cases he'd read papers on.

"A child with brain cancer," he said. "And I can't remember which one he had. Had half his brain removed, and it had spread into the other half. The kid was still functional. They said he's going to die, let's give it a try. They injected him with NDV. Stopped it and the kid lived." (Csatary 1999)<sup>67</sup>

"... And so when [Ted] Kennedy got sick, I thought, you know he needs a shot of NDV," he said, shaking a finger. "It would probably save his life. But are they going to listen to a vet from Lancaster, who's retired, who has these crazy ideas about using a chicken virus to do what?" (U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy D-MA had died a couple months earlier of a malignant glioma brain tumor.)

He makes air quotes at "crazy idea" and forms a puzzled look on his face.

The possibilities of NDV as a cancer fighter have also been reported in several papers for decades. According to the National Cancer Institute, NDV may be more likely to attack and destroy tumor cells rather than healthy cells. "NDV-based anticancer therapy has been reported to be of benefit in more than a dozen clinical studies, but the results of these studies must be considered inconclusive because the study designs were weak and the study reports were generally incomplete."<sup>68</sup>

In Israel, researchers still see the potential in using NDV against cancer after some issues can be resolved. (Tayeb et al 2015)<sup>69</sup> A study in Mexico tested NDV against human and canine lymphoma cells and found it may be a promising treatment. (Sánchez et al. 2016)<sup>70</sup> Other researchers have had success reprogramming viruses such as the common cold to attack cancers. (Alonso et al. 2012)<sup>71</sup> This appears to be a possible method of fighting cancer that could be more thoroughly explored.

## Diagnosing and treating respiratory herpes

I have to admit, this topic had confused me. I was aware of herpes. I knew a version of it was what gave me a cold sore on my lip now and then. I knew it could hit the genitals, of course. But I didn't understand how this disease could mimic distemper in the dog.

### **Necropsy** – An autopsy on an animal.

"Herpes! Here we come," Dr. Sears said after popping up the first slide on the topic. "Okay so I'm going to run down this and you guys, I'm telling you, are going to see a lot of [necropsies]."

I brace myself. I'd visited human anatomy labs, so I understood the frame of mind I needed. "Bring a wall" was the advice I once learned. Separate what you see from your emotions. Still, I had never seen so many dead puppies split open.<sup>72</sup>

He hovers over the laptop as he taps through slides that appear behind his head.

"Let me stand over here where I can see what we're doing," he said. "I can see it here and talk to you as we go. OK, diagnostic procedures. Herpes, a viral disease of the dog. Respiratory reproductive, but we only know the one virus. It is not known whether there is more than one. Almost every species has more than one."