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Circulating Tumor Cells (CTC)?

Part 2

Has Your Team Discussed CTC with You?

September 21, 2026

BLUF: “Recent advancements in technology have significantly enhanced our comprehension of the mechanisms behind the bloodborne spread of circulating tumor cells (CTCs). One critical process, DNA methylation, regulates gene expression and chromosome stability, thus maintaining dynamic equilibrium in the body.¹”

My research continues as I absorb the plethora of information in, *The Cancer Revolution*, (what I now call the Cancer Bible) specifically chapters five and six that contain extremely valuable information on CTC’s, tests to identify CTC’s in your blood/body and recommended treatments.

This is the second part of a two-part commentary on CTC. As I continued to research CTC, I found even more information on the importance of testing for CTC and the molecular structure that is altered to allow CTC to take hold in other parts of the body. Do not worry, I will not be writing in medical language many people gloss over because of the PhD level language and the target audience of the articles. Many articles are written to impress medical academia and the medical industrial complex, so their sponsors are given lots of money for more “research”. I will keep the language simple and when necessary, decipher the PhD level code words! Now, onwards to more education for cancer victims and their friends and families.

“We then conduct an in-depth analysis of how modifications in DNA methylation within CTCs impact each of these critical stages during CTC dissemination.

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-024-01938-6#Sec1> Published: 02 September 2024

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Furthermore, we explored potential clinical implications of changes in DNA methylation in CTCs for patients with cancer.² Now that is an important statement from the article, but let us be honest, would a cancer patient or friend even begin to understand the PhD level language! So let me decipher.

First what is DNA methylation³ - the transfer of a methyl group, aka a small molecule made up of one carbon and three hydrogen atoms, from one compound i.e. cell to another. This transfer can either help your body or hurt it. Think of it this way. You have a glass of tea, and you add one teaspoon of sugar, and it changes the taste a little. Now add two more teaspoons and the taste really changes. The methylation changes the structure of DNA and proteins.

“By understanding these epigenetic (the study of the chemical modification of specific genes or gene-associated proteins of an organism) modifications, we can gain insights into the metastatic process and identify new biomarkers for early detection, prognosis, and targeted therapies. This review aims to bridge the gap between basic research and clinical application, highlighting the significance of DNA methylation in the context of cancer metastasis and offering new avenues for improving patient outcomes⁴.”

The importance of this is simple, as this attack on your DNA/proteins begins to change the DNA/protein, the cell changes:

² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-024-01938-6#Sec1> Published: 02 September 2024

³ <https://organicclinic.com/methylation-process/>

⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-024-01938-6#Sec1>

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1. inhibits or silences tumor suppressor genes (*Tumor suppressor genes prevent cell growth that can lead to cancer. These genes make proteins that suppress the process that can lead to tumors. To suppress means to “stop” or “restrain.” The proteins prevent cells from multiplying and making more cells. They help your body press the brakes on cell growth.*

But when tumor suppressor genes change (mutate), they stop making the proteins your body needs to press the brakes. As a result, cells can grow out of control and form a mass of cells (tumor)⁵, and

2. changes or transform normal healthy cells into malignant cells, thereby aiding these malignant cells to avoid detection and sometime become resistant to treatment.

Patients and their team need to understand the importance of this transformation. The result will be more malignant cells developing and spreading throughout the body, actively looking for a new area to infect (rest) to start the development of cancer in another part of the body.

Testing for CTC and the tools to test for it are now available to Drs. Identifying CTC's in your blood can be the protocol that may be the early detection of metastasizing cancer with an opportunity to stop it. As we all know, a significant part to defeat cancer is early detection.

⁵ <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/24833-tumor-suppressor-genes>

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I am no longer shocked at the information that was NOT provided to Karen and me to treat her cancer. Karen would be alive today based on what I have researched since August 2023. “Too greedy to care!”© should be medical industrial complex’s motto and part of the Hippocratic oath!

Remember, it takes a team, with open-minded people to defeat cancer.

Peter