

The rational behind placenta therapy

Acta Medica Empirica, Band 35, Heft 8, August 1986, Karl F. Haug Verlag GmbH & Co, Heidelberg
Dr.med. Erich Krug, Dr.med. Kh. Kugler

The human placenta has a diameter of 15 – 20 cm, is 2 – 4 cm thick and weighs about 500 g. During pregnancy it provides the fetus nutrients and oxygen through the umbilical cord and also removes waste of the fetal metabolism. In addition the placenta produces peptide hormones during pregnancy, the first of which was discovered 1927: human Chorionic Gonadotropine hCG.

K.E. Theurer pointed out during the 1950ies that preparations made from placenta influence many different functions of various organs and have a broad therapeutic effect.

During pregnancy the placenta has many different functions: First the fertilized egg is nested into the maternal organism through the trophoblast – the precursor of the placenta. This is achieved through proteolytic enzymes of the chorionic cells. There is a functional similarity to the digestive cells of the gastrointestinal tract, that also produce proteolytic enzymes. Other functional similarities like the above have been described by K.E. Theurer almost 40 years ago:

1) As a metabolic organ the placenta takes care of delivering nutrients necessary for the nutrition and growth of the fetus and the elimination of metabolic waste. Analogies exist to the function of the intestines, the liver and the kidneys.

2) The exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide shows functional similarities to pulmonary epithelium.

3) The storage of vitamins and trace elements shows similarities to the function of the liver and mesenchyme tissue.

4) Through the abundance of blood vessels the placenta has an effect on the vascular system.

5) The lowering of blood lipids and cholesterol can be explained through the stimulation of estrogen synthesis.

6) As a hormone synthesising organ the placenta influences the hypophysis and increases the synthesis of glandotropic hormones and growth hormone.

Hormone synthesis of the placenta can only be found in the fetal portion of the placenta – in the chorion. In the maternal portion antagonists against fetal regulation factors are found. It therefore makes sense to separate the maternal and fetal portions of the placenta to use in different preparations for different indications.

Contraindications for using the fetal portion and maybe also the complete placenta are over

active hypophysis and adrenal gland, juvenile diabetes, hyperfollikulemia and beginning menopause as well as tumors, because the fetal portion of the placenta stimulates cell division and has an immunosuppressive effect.

Indications for using the entire placenta or just the fetal portion are low blood pressure, atopic diseases, insufficiency of the hypophysis and adrenal glands, genital hypoplasia, idiopathic sterility, high cholesterol, arteriosclerosis, psoriasis, open wounds, fractures, parodontosis, slow growth in children and parodontosis. The therapeutic effect comes from the stimulation of cell growth and division.

The maternal portion of the placenta has no contraindications and is used for general revitalization, tumor therapy, high blood pressure and diabetes. After applying the dilutions the whole extract is injected twice weekly.

It is unfortunate that the different effects of the two placenta portions are little known. Especially in oncology the maternal placenta has an invigorating, pain reducing, euphorising and cancer inhibiting effect.

In a double blind study in the cancer research department of the University in Vienna over a time period of 84 weeks using 3 different groups of mice with breast cancer, 40 % of the ones given maternal placenta in their food survived. In the group without placenta and the group given fetal placenta all died.

In another trial where cancer was induced in mice with injections of 0.25 mg methyl cholanthren, 40 % of the ones injected with maternal placenta 3 times in a space of 14 days, survived while all others died after 36 weeks.

Other researches had similar results in fish with melanoma and rats with sarcoma.

The therapeutic possibilities for blood pressure problems and vascular disease as well as the heart muscle are of great importance as well. The fetal placenta increases blood pressure and the maternal placenta decreases blood pressure. The authors achieved remarkable results in treating hypertension with maternal placenta. The best preparation for this treatment are the 5 ml dilutions.

Placenta extract can be combined with extracts of other organs.