

P83. MEDICAL USAGE of ARSENIC TRIOXIDE

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Arsenic compounds have been used for over two thousand years in the treatment of various diseases as a part of the traditional medicine. Anti-leukemic use of arsenic has first been identified at the end of 18th century. It has been used for many years to treat particularly chronic myeloid leukemia and other different kinds of leukemia. Although it is effective, the medical use of arsenic had slowed until 1970s with advent of new chemotherapeutic regimens and radiation therapy. However this situation has changed again after successful reports of arsenic trioxide for acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) had started to come from China. Inorganic arsenic in the mid-20th century had been used as a therapeutical agent especially in the treatment of leukemia, psoriasis, asthma and chronic bronchitis. The organic arsenic compounds had widely been used in the treatment of protozoal diseases and spirochetal. Nowadays, arsenic trioxide is used in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL). US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved the use of arsenic trioxide for this purpose in 2000.