Anovite Colostrum Offers Protection Against NSAID-induced Gastrointestinal Tract Damage

Aspirin, ibuprofen, diclofenac, piroxicam, and naproxen. Painkillers such as these are known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These are the most commonly used drugs worldwide to treat pain and inflammation. The use of NSAIDs is routine therapy for arthritis and many other musculoskeletal disorders, as well as many other inflammatory conditions such as sinusitis, prostatitis and cystitis.

Most NSAIDs can be safely used for two to three days, and many are sold as OTC drugs with reduced recommended dosages. Obviously, instances occur when the use of these drugs is the best course of action. No one is calling into question their value in appropriate situations. However, using these drugs instead of and without trying our alternatives is due to lack of healing insight; although these drugs are anti-inflammatory; they do not stimulate healing.

When these drugs are used for longer periods, virtually all patients suffer some complications, which can range from micro-bleeding and ulcers in the gastrointestinal tract to liver or kidney toxicity.

In a sense “the cat has been let out of the bag.” More than 20,000 Americans per year die from complications resulting from NSAID therapy. This is particularly true for the elderly, and for anyone with a history of peptic ulcers. In any given year, it’s estimated that six percent of patients taking NSAIDs will get into serious trouble, requiring hospitalization.

This fact was underscored again in December 1998 when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the new arthritis pain-killer, Celebrex, the first in a long-awaited new type of painkiller for millions of arthritis sufferers that is said to be safe on the stomach. Initial sales reports on Celebrex show it surpassed Viagra in sales during its first month. Yet, amidst all of the hype, the FDA cautioned its stomach-passed Viagra in sales during its first month. Yet, in an experimental study to examine whether colostrum could reduce gastrointestinal injury caused by indomethacin, researchers administered the NSAID indomethacin together with colostrum. As noted in the May 1999 issue of the journal Gut, pretreatment with colostrum reduced gastric injury by 30 to 60 percent. Addition of colostrum to drinking water also prevented villi shortening in the mouse model of small intestinal injury. (Damage to villi, which are minute finger-shaped projections of the mucous membrane of the small intestine that serve in the absorption of nutrients, is an early sign of NSAID damage.) “Bovine colostrum could provide a novel, inexpensive approach for the prevention and treatment of the injurious effects of NSAIDs on the gut and may also be of value for the treatment of other ulcerative conditions of the bowel,” they note.

In a more recent study, researchers examined whether bovine colostrum could reduce the rise in gut permeability (a non-invasive marker of intestinal injury) caused by NSAIDs in volunteers and patients taking NSAIDs for clinical reasons. Seven healthy male volunteers participated in a randomized crossover trial comparing changes in gut permeability before and after five days of 50 mg of indomethacin three times daily together with colostrum or a placebo.

In volunteers, indomethacin caused a three-fold increase in gut permeability in the placebo group, whereas no significant increase in permeability was seen when colostrum was co-administered.

This study provides “preliminary evidence that bovine colostrum, which is already currently available as an over-the-counter preparation, may provide a novel approach to the prevention of NSAID-induced gastrointestinal damage in humans,” say the researchers.
How Anovite Helps
Anovite Colostrum is a rich source of a wide range of growth factors that aid in maintaining the integrity of the gastrointestinal tract.

Growth Hormone (GH) is the single most abundant hormone produced by the body, affecting almost every cell. GH levels are highest during teenage years and they fall rapidly thereafter. GH increases metabolism, reduces fat and increases muscle mass. It is involved in the regeneration of heart, lung and liver tissue, as well as many other organs and tissues throughout the body. It stimulates protein synthesis, which is critical for the renewal of skin, bones and the internal tissues of the body.

Insulin-like growth factors (IGF) I and II belong to a whole family of hormones contained in colostrum, called the IGF super family. IGF-1 is considered to be the most potent. It functions like the captain of a ship, triggering the events that activate cell growth and reproduction, protein synthesis, and the release of energy (glucose metabolism). Because it is involved in so many major functions, it is found in association with almost all the cells in the body. It improves the function of GH to build muscle and burn fat. It is also recognized for its ability to regenerate and repair cartilage and other internal bodily tissues. As we age, the cells in our body do not reproduce themselves as well and since IGF-1 is a primary factor in the ability of cells to grow and reproduce, it is highly desirable for its many anti-aging and regenerative effects.

Transforming growth factors A and B are helpful in healing wounds and in the synthesis and repair of RNA and DNA. Fibroblast growth factor, among other things, stimulates the growth of new blood vessels and contributes to tissue development and wound healing. Platelet-derived growth factor is involved in the healing of vascular wounds. It is released in conjunction with blood clotting during the healing process.

REFERENCES

The Doctors’ Prescription
Anovite bovine colostrum is a cheap, readily available source of growth factors. These growth factors have been shown to reduce gastrointestinal injury in experimental and clinical studies. Use of Anovite would also appear to be warranted for a number of other gastrointestinal conditions, including ulcerative colitis, other inflammatory bowel diseases, and chemotherapy-induced mucositis.

We recommend Anovite Colostrum because it is truly a first-milking colostrum, one whose natural constituents have been preserved through expert processing (see “Importance of First-Milking Colostrum” side bar).

While adults can use colostrum as both a capsule, powder or pineapple lozenge, children tend to love the strawberry chew-ables. Anovite Colostrum is widely available at natural health centers and from health professionals.