Osg4 20120801 CANCER

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All of us know someone who’s battling cancer – and there’s nothing as heart breaking as thinking you’v defeated it only to find that’s its back.

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Now there is new research that may explain why that happens.. and may lead with a way to prevent it. More after this from Charlie:

((SPOT)))

Three new cancer studies support the idea that you can’t successfully eliminate cancer just by cutting out the tumor. Because tumors, according to this research, generate their own stem cells: cancer stem cells. Which can act as seeds for new tumors.

Researchers who studied human brain tumors implanted in mice think they have found the true origins of these tumors:



Researcher Luis Parada, of the University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, says these cancer stem cells are the true enemy.

If he’s right, it means that even drastically shrinking a tumor through chemotherapy has no long-term benefit unless you can kill off these stem cells. So his idea is not to worry about the tumor, but to kill the stem cells:



Not all cancer researchers agree with this idea. For one thing they’re not sure whether tumors grown in mice behave the way they would in the human body.

But Dr. Parada said his study of human brain tumors seems to confirm his experiments with the mice… and team is now trying to isolate the stem cells to discover their weaknesses, and develop drugs to attack them.



Dr. Luis Parada, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas