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*Healthy choices for people and pets*

## Holistic Approach to a Deadly Condition—IMHA

The purpose of this article is not to introduce a “cure” for any one particular disease but to **introduce a new paradigm in holistic pet care**. I have chosen a deadly condition, Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) or Auto-Immune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA) as an example. The Morris Animal Foundation states:

- 50% of dogs with IMHA die within two weeks of diagnosis
- IMHA dogs have nearly a 70% mortality rate

I hope no reader has ever had to face this disease with their beloved pet. For simplicity, henceforth, Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) and Auto-Immune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA) will be collectively referred to as IMHA. The **holistic principles in this article apply to all symptoms and any disease**, not just IMHA.

With IMHA, red blood cells are not manufactured at the bone marrow level, requiring blood transfusions to keep the dog’s hematocrit level (HCT or PCV in %) in the normal range (36-55%). In addition, the body’s own immune system is seemingly attacking itself by destroying the remaining good red blood cells thus further lowering the red blood cell count. IMHA is hard to diagnose and frequently goes untreated until the dog collapses, thus leading to the dreadful statistics above. Prednisone, prednisolone, cyclosporine and azathioprine are the most commonly prescribed drugs. While these drugs do suppress the body’s immune system from attacking itself, they do nothing to regenerate the red blood cells that are being destroyed, resulting in non-regenerative anemia.

Typical allopathic veterinary research for IMHA focuses on how to stop the body from destroying its own red blood cells and how to neutralize any infections or other secondary causes that have stopped red blood cell production at the bone marrow level. While both treatments are needed to handle the acute symptoms in order to save a dog’s life, will this produce the ultimate answer? Do scientists really know all the nutrients, organs, glands and processes involved in producing healthy red blood cells? Is it really a foreign invader attacking the body and stopping it from producing red blood cells?

### Back to Basics

Nature has dictated what nutrients are needed to manufacture red blood cells. Nature has also given this necessary knowledge to the body’s glands and organs and encoded this knowledge in their cell’s DNA. So, why not holistically support the body’s natural process of manufacturing red blood cells by supplying super nutrition to wake up the brain and balance ALL the glands and organs, then let the body’s own natural ability to heal take over? One cannot do this with drugs or supplements because they mostly treat symptoms and cannot cross the blood/brain barrier. But nutrients from foods and whole food products can cross the blood/brain barrier and **nourish the brain and all the body’s glands and organs** so the body can resume what it already knows how to do—manufacture healthy red blood cells.

The following are based on my scientific research, 11+ years of experience helping clients with IMHA and observations based on 60+ years of holistic living. This is not meant to replace or substitute for proper veterinary care.

## Bio-Algae Concentrates (BAC)

During the 1970's in the former U.S.S.R., the chicken, cow, pig and mink populations (all cash crops) were beset with a cancer epidemic. In 1973, Dr. Michael Kiriatic was tasked by the Moldova Academy of Sciences to research a nutritional way to prevent cancer in animals. Current research at that time pointed to the promise of algae, as a nutritional tool in preventing cancer. Out of the 25,000+ species of algae on Earth, he chose more than 1,000 different species to research. Bio-algae concentrates (BAC) is the generic name given to the research algae mixture that Dr. Michael Kiriatic used on mice, rats, chicken, rabbits, mink, pigs, cows and other livestock. After 20 years of research he discovered the following BAC benefits:

1. 50% of diseased chickens (including Marek disease, a type of cancer) were put back into production
2. Ability to raise disease-free (including cancer) chickens without the use of antibiotics and hormones
3. 20% overall productivity increase in chickens
4. 21% increased weight of chickens
5. Increased strength of eggshell and larger eggs
6. Better tasting eggs and meat
7. Prevention of cancer in rabbits
8. Shinier and longer fur in rabbits
9. Increased survival rate of newborns
10. Increased fertility—larger litters
11. Calmer moods
12. Prevention of viral and bacterial infections—overall healthier animals
13. Dangerously low white blood cell counts (due to leukemia) was increased
14. **Regeneration of bone marrow, blood, spinal fluids and liver cells**

You can order a copy of Dr. Kiriatic's book, *Awakening the Genius Within*, documenting this research on over 20 animal species, at ([www.OptimumChoices.com/BioPreparation-Algae-Spirulina.htm](http://www.OptimumChoices.com/BioPreparation-Algae-Spirulina.htm)). It is this ability of BAC to nutritionally support the body in **regenerating bone marrow and blood cells** that is most relevant to IMHA. Dr. Kiriatic found research by Chinese scientists documenting that phycocyanin stimulates hematopoiesis (creation of blood), emulating the hormone erythropoietin (EPO). EPO is produced by healthy kidneys and regulates bone marrow stem cell production of red blood cells. They claim phycocyanin regulated white blood cell production, even when bone marrow stem cells are damaged by toxic chemicals or radiation.<sup>1</sup>

Chlorophyll is sometimes called “green blood” because of its similarity to the hemoglobin molecule found in human blood cells. In fact, both are constructed of almost identical molecular structure called pyrrole rings, and both substances are chemically known as “porphyrin pigments” by scientists. The difference is that chlorophyll contains a magnesium ion at its core, while hemoglobin contains an iron molecule. Magnesium imparts a green color to the chlorophyll molecule and is involved in synthesis of other materials, while iron gives

hemoglobin a red coloration and changes the function of the porphyrin molecule to respiration and breakdown of materials. There are many reasons why cereal grass and other dark green plants can be considered “blood-building” foods. The vitamins and minerals in cereal grass are essential to the synthesis and function of the components of healthy blood. It does appear, however, that small amounts of the digestive products of chlorophyll may stimulate the synthesis of either heme or globin or both in animals and humans.<sup>2</sup>

## IMHA Experiences

Since 2003, we have dealt with over 1000 clients with IMHA/AIHA. Our clients have used a [whole food, bio-algae concentrate](#) containing the same four microalgae in Dr. Kiriac’s final bio-algae concentrate (BAC) formula. One dog that was pregnant fell over and got very weak for 3 days. The owner took her dog to the vet and she was diagnosed with anemia. Her blood count (HCT) was only 13 (36-55 is normal) and she lost her puppies. They gave her a blood transfusion and took her back a week later for a hysterectomy, after the vet diagnosed a bad infection. Ten days after the operation, she fell over again, her blood count (HCT) was down to 8 and they gave the dog another transfusion. They did a bone marrow biopsy and found no red blood cells were being made. After 4 days, and \$7500 later, the vet diagnosed Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA)—Red Blood Cell Aplasia. The vet said the blood count was up to 14 but the dog could not go home and would probably die there. At that point the dog was on 7 different immune suppressants. The dog was bloated and had no strength or energy. She could not even go down the stairs by herself. The dog was slowly weaned off all drugs but the Prednisone. She started to act a little better but they still could not get her blood count above 17. Her liver was enlarged and her body was full of fluids.

Fortunately, the owner started using a bio-algae concentrate along with a natural diet of chicken or beef, rice and carrots mixed with seaweed, garlic, acidophilus, and flax seed oil. The dog slowly recovered, was full of energy, running up and down the Colorado mountains, eating well and her gums turned pinker than ever. The dog lived 8+ years past her IMHA diagnosis and died of a failing liver.

Another dog with IMHA needed CPR because he collapsed and his heart stopped. They were able to revive him and gave him his tenth blood transfusion for IMHA. His lowest HCT was 8. They gave him a bio-algae concentrate and he responded wonderfully. He began drinking water almost immediately. His HCT level remained stable at 32, when in the past it had been no higher than 16, even with blood transfusions. He was discharged from the hospital after 10 days. The dog’s HCT returned into the normal range at 45. He is still on the immune suppressants and steroids but they are working on weaning him off these medications. Our survival statistics so far average around 50%:

Year	Cases	Survival Rate
2008	45	53%
2009	57	67%
2010	33	45%

## IMHA Solution?

We have helped 1000+ IMHA clients in the last 14 years. I suspect a number of the remaining clients are still alive but unfortunately, most people treat whole food products just like supplements in that they only give them as long as their pet has symptoms. When the pet totally recovers, they discontinue the product and never get back with us. To respect the privacy and sensitivity of the subject (some dogs die), we have not followed up.

How did a nutritional whole food product accomplish all this?—it did not. Bio-algae concentrates contain four microalgae that synergistically supplies super nutrients to the body at the cellular level (microalgae are one-celled organisms) rather than trying to “fix” the red blood cells, bone marrow and immune system with a specific drug or a supplement. Bio-algae supplied the body with over 5,000 individual nutrients, including Vitamin A, B-complex, C, D, E and K, essential fatty acids of Omega 3, Omega 6, Omega 9, Gamma Linoleic Acid (GLA content is similar to early mother’s milk), Alpha-Linolenic Acids (ALAs), Dihomogamma-Linolenic Acid (DGLA), Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and more fatty acids, over 4,000 enzymes, 10 essential amino acids plus 10 non-essential ones, all known trace minerals and elements, phytonutrients (including chlorophyll) and thousands of other nutrients so the body could resume producing red blood cells normally. Bio-algae concentrates are not a solution for IMHA but a holistic way to activate the body’s own natural ability to heal.

## New Paradigm in Holistic Pet Care

Bio-algae concentrates contain superfood nutrients (specifically abundant antioxidants in the form of mixed carotenoids from its microalgae) that can awaken the master gland in the brain, which controls all the other glands and organs of the body and, of course, red blood cell production. When the pituitary (master gland), pineal and hypothalamus in the brain are synergistically working together (also known as the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal [HPA] axis), the body is “wholistically” balanced and can return to wellness. Since no one knows exactly why IMHA occurs, nutritionally supporting and balancing the whole body, with a whole food product, is the most “wholistic” approach to regenerate red blood cells. Bio-algae concentrates do not treat the symptoms or IMHA disease but **activate the animal’s own natural ability to heal.**

We have used this same holistic paradigm of feeding super nutrition to the body (from a whole food product not supplements), waking up and balancing the glands in the brain, to nutritionally help pets with [Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy SLO](#) (another auto-immune disease), [seizures](#), [cancer](#), [chronic renal failure \(CRF\)](#), [allergies](#), [inflammatory bowel disease \(IBD\)](#), [diabetes](#), [lipomas \(fatty tumors\)](#) and many other imbalances in the body. When the [endocrine and immune systems](#) are holistically balanced, everything works like it should and symptoms are not needed. Now that is a **new paradigm in holistic pet care!**

*Optimum Choices is a holistic wellness company with over 90 years of holistic experience, specializing in animals. Rather than offer isolated vitamins, herbal products, extracts, concentrates or natural remedies that only address the symptoms they mostly offer whole food products that awaken the natural ability of the body to heal. Visit their website, [www.OptimumChoices.com](http://www.OptimumChoices.com).*

Download the full 25 page **IMHA & AIHA Case Studies** research paper at:  
[www.OptimumChoices.com/Immune\\_Mediated\\_Hemolytic\\_Anemia-IMHA.htm](http://www.OptimumChoices.com/Immune_Mediated_Hemolytic_Anemia-IMHA.htm)

<sup>1</sup> Zhang Cheng-Wu, et. al. Effects of polysaccharide and phycocyanin from spirulina on peripheral blood and hematopoietic system of bone marrow in mice. Second Asia-Pacific Conf. Ibid, April, 1994. (Source: [www.themagicisbac.com/page10-01-05.html](http://www.themagicisbac.com/page10-01-05.html))

<sup>2</sup> All the above research was taken from [www.TheMagicisBAC.com](http://www.TheMagicisBAC.com)

(The original of this article is a PDF file. All the [underlined blue words](#) are hyperlinks back to their referenced web pages. For a PDF copy with live hyperlinks, e-mail [info@OptimumChoices.com](mailto:info@OptimumChoices.com))

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