The 10 Wackiest AIDS “Cures”

Derek Thaczuk deals with a deck of dubious debuggers

May 1, 2004 By Derek Thaczuk

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10. The “AIDS Treating Machine” (from T&T Medical Products). Contents: “Solution A, with H2O and NaCl.” We’re talking **salt water,** sister. Save it for the capellini.

9. The “Zapper” (from Bob Beck, self-proclaimed “doctor of the future”). This gizmo claimed to electrocute HIV and other pesky viruses.

8. Hyperthermia. In 1990, PWAs maxed-out credit cards for pricey stays in foreign clinics where the blood was taken from their bodies, heated and returned, presumably HIV free.

7. In Africa the myth that **sex with virgins** cures AIDS causes a rash of rapes.

6. “Plasma Plus.” This potion’s peddler was busted in Vegas for fraud.

5. “Immunostim” claimed to cure not just AIDS but cancer. Contents: a compound akin to (we kid you not) **toilet bowl cleaner.**

4. “OvImmune” was made of **powdered eggs** from vaccinated chickens. Yolk’s on you.

3. Three-Herb Miracle Cure dot-com. This one sprouted on the World Wide Wed in 1996. A court order swiftly nipped it in the bud.

2. HIV positive South African grave robbers brewed **tea from an apartheid official’s skeleton** convinced it would cure. Kettle’s on.

1. The undisputed No. 1, from an anonymous tip to the AIDS Committee of Toronto: **masturbating onto tomatoes.** We’re not sure how it works, but you’ll never look at ketchup the same way again.

AIDS and health-care fraud are no joke. Check out www.healthfraud.org and www.quackwatch.org.

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