

Effects of Oral Consumption of Shark Cartilage  
on the Development of Melanomas in Mice

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## Abstract

It is proposed that by inhibiting the development of new blood vessels, tumor growth could be terminated. Angiogenesis, the growth of new blood vessels, has been studied over the past 50 years. Anti-angiogenic substances have been proven to prevent vascularization. Recently shark cartilage has been proven to have anti-angiogenic properties. However, no research has been conducted to prove oral consumption of shark cartilage is effective in tumor prevention or reduction. Thus thousands of sharks are slaughtered each year to help support the growth of the shark cartilage industry. This study determines whether oral consumption of shark cartilage has an effect on the development of tumors in mice. Two groups of mice were injected with melanoma cells, with one group receiving shark cartilage mixed with its food. The mice were observed during the study to determine whether the shark cartilage would prevent tumor growth. The results support the hypothesis that shark cartilage orally consumed does not prevent tumor growth. This research hopefully will stimulate further investigations to definitively end the question of the efficacy of shark cartilage as a cancer treatment and prevention.

## Introduction

One of the most feared and dangerous predators lurking about the ocean, could save your life. This persuasive headline hailing the benefits of the consumption of shark cartilage has been present in the media over the past ten years. Publications and promotions have stated continuously that sharks don't get cancer. Despite the scientific proof of over 20 cases in which sharks have developed cancer, the myth continues to

