

The BeTER LeTTER

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Director's Message

Greetings ,

Has the BTER Foundation helped you obtain information or service? Instructions or care? Literature or grants?

If so, here is a way to help us spread the message and the good: share your experience with us, and with the Great Nonprofits. It's easy and should only take 2 or 3 minutes.



We are less than 10 reviews away from achieving top-rated status by the end of this month. Becoming a top rated organization will amplify our visibility and reach, allowing us to assist more individuals. By sharing stories about the good we did for you, you will help us to do good for others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Now . . . let us spread the word about some important research. The story below is not only a brief review of the latest phage research, but also is a story about how to make research more impactful: make promising but still investigational treatments (not yet FDA-approved) available to patients for whom standard treatments have failed to address their medical needs. This approach is called "compassionate use," and the article reviewed here illustrates how the benefits of compassionate use can be great, for both patients and researchers. You can see the full story below, or on our [website](#).

Wishing you great benefits, as well;

/Ron Sherman,
Director

Biotherapy Journal Review

A recently published article in the journal “Med” describes the use of phage therapy (PASA16 phage), successfully treating several patients with refractory *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections. [Link]

This work is very important because infections with *P. aeruginosa* can be life-threatening, especially in people who are debilitated or immunocompromised. The publication is also important because it reminds us that often researchers can share their promising investigational treatments with patients who are not otherwise eligible to receive them (that is, not eligible to enroll in the clinical trial), thanks to the “compassionate use” pathway.

The work was carried out by a large multi-national team headed by Professors Ran Nir-Paz, Ronen Hazan and Hadil Onallah of Hadassah Medical Center-Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

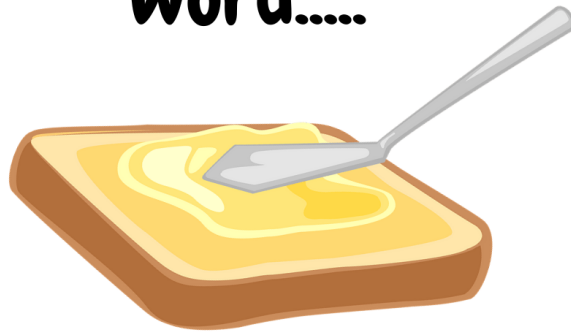
Phage therapy is a type of treatment that uses viruses (“bacteriaophage”) that parasitize very specific bacteria. When the bacteria are completely eradicated, leaving no more hosts for the phage, they die off, too.

In clinical research, investigators can often petition for a “compassionate use” pathway, by which they can offer investigational treatments to patients who do not qualify to participate in the clinical study and therefore would not otherwise be able to take advantage of the risky but potentially life-saving treatment. Compassionate use is not an automatic part of all research studies. It must be requested by the investigators, approved by the regulators, paid for by the sponsors . . . it takes a lot of time and effort to add this option to a clinical study, and the “payoff” for the study team is often low, because none of these patients can be included in the data analysis for the study.

In this case, the payoff was wonderful for the patients who benefited from the treatment, and for the researchers who gained experience and some preliminary data upon which to support future research. PASA16 phage was administered to 16 patients, 15 of whom were available for follow-up. To date, 13 of the 15 patients completely recovered or dramatically improved from their potentially fatal infections (in 6 patients, all subsequent cultures were negative; for 7 patients, repeat cultures could not be obtained). Only 2 patients failed to improve clinically, one of whom continued to harbor *P. aeruginosa* on repeat cultures.

You can read the full study [here](#).

When you spread the word.....



you spread the GOOOOOOD!

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