What is claimed is:

1. Use of sodium meta arsenite as the sole active agent for manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cancer stem cells that are resistant to treatment with anti-cancer agents.

2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated to deliver an amount of sodium meta arsenite in a dosage amount of from 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

4. Use according to claim 1 wherein the stem cells are refractive to cisplatin, paclitaxel or docetaxel.

5. Use according to claim 1 wherein the cancer stem cells are lung cancer cells.

6. Use according to claim 1 wherein the cancer stem cells are leukemia, myeloma or lymphoma cells.

7. Use according to claim 1 wherein the cancer stem cells are prostate cancer cells.

8. Use of sodium meta arsenite as the sole active agent for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the elimination or reduction of drug-resistant cancer stem cells in a patient.

9. Use according to claim 8 wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

10. Use according to claim 8 wherein the composition is formulated to deliver an amount of sodium meta arsenite in a dosage amount of from 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

11. Use according to claim 8 wherein the cancer stem cells are prostate cancer stem cells.

12. Use of sodium meta arsenite for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for sensitizing cancer cells to treatment with an anti-cancer agent to which the cancer cells have become refractive.

13. Use according to claim 12 wherein the sodium meta arsenite is formulated for oral administration.

14. Use according to claim 12 wherein the cancer cells are lung cancer cells, prostate cancer cells, myeloma cells, lymphoma cells or leukemia cells.

15. Use according to claim 12 wherein the cancer cells are refractive to cisplatin, paclitaxel or docetaxel.

Claims

1. Use of sodium meta arsenite for the manufacture of a composition for sensitizing cisplatin-resistant cancer cells to treatment with cisplatin.

2. Use of sodium meta arsenite for the manufacture of a composition for sensitizing docetaxel-resistant cancer cells to treatment with docetaxel.

3. Use of sodium meta arsenite for the manufacture of a composition for sensitizing paclitaxel-resistant cancer cells to treatment with paclitaxel.

4. Use according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the composition is formulated for oral, intraperitoneal or parenteral administration.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 20 mg sodium meta arsenite.

6. Use according to claim 4 wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

7. Use according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the resistant cancer cells are lung cancer cells or prostate cancer cells.