Keto diet as a cancer treatment? Researchers explore potential to treat diseases, seizures

[S]cientists have known for decades that the keto diet can prevent epileptic seizures even when pharmaceutical treatments have failed. But the work of [Dominic] D'Agostino and a handful of other pioneering ketone researchers over the past decade has also led scientists at Harvard, Yale, and other top institutions to consider the diet's potential to treat other diseases. ... Siddhartha Mukherjee, an oncologist and the author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*, a Pulitzer Prize—winning history of cancer science, is among those interested in whether the ketogenic diet could have a role in cancer therapy.

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Most people struggle to stick with a ketogenic eating plan in the long term. If a synthetically formed ketone drink or pill could provide many of the possible benefits of the keto diet without someone having to give up bread forever, it could, in theory, be a huge medical leap.

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D'Agostino wanted to study the effects of a diester, a molecule designed to elevate two different types of ketone bodies at once.

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D'Agostino says that he now receives a request for the molecule from other scientists at least once a week. ... Most studies are still being done with animals, but human trials for several different neurological conditions are now in the early stages.

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