_ As angiogenesis is normally limited in adults, few adverse effects are expected with anti-angiogenic drugs

_ Unlike tumor cells, endothelial cells are easily accessible from the blood circulation

_ Numerous tumor cells depend on a single microvessel. Destroying a few microvessels amplifies anti-tumor effects (Jain 2001).

1.6.5 Angiogenesis inhibitors compounds

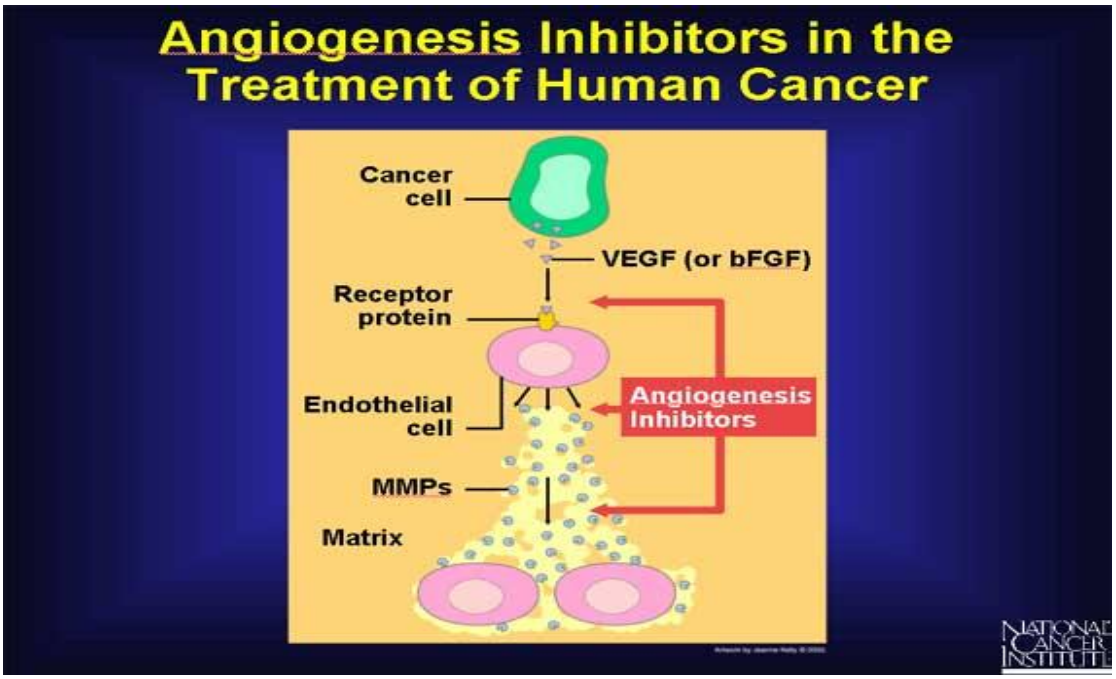

Figure 12: Different strategies for targeting angiogenesis inhibition.

1.6.5.1 Endogenous angiogenesis inhibitors

Endogenous inhibitors of angiogenesis are defined as proteins or fragments of proteins that are formed in the body and can inhibit the formation of blood vessels.

Many endogenous inhibitors of angiogenesis are fragments of larger extracellular matrix (ECM) molecules. These fragments become released upon proteolysis of the ECM and the vascular basement membrane by enzymes, such as matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), cathepsins and elastases.