

Alternative Cancer Treatment

There is a very fine line between some complementary cancer therapies and some alternative cancer treatments and you may feel some of the cancer treatments mentioned in this section of our web site could fall under either or both headings.

Obviously, the ultimate goal with any cancer treatment is to cure someone of their cancer. However realism has crept into Orthodox medicine and 'extending survival times' is the new declared mantra with treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. 'Cancer cure' has given way to 'cancer management' and we have several articles on this web site about this change of direction.

As we continually state at CANCERactive, we believe cancer is a multi-step process and needs a multi-step treatment programme if we are genuinely to believe total cure is a possibility. Of course, there will always be cases where Herceptin or Temozolomide does single-handedly cure a cancer patient, but these drugs are not universal cancer cures and nor are they claimed to be.

And so we come to **Alternative Cancer Treatments** - and there is no reason why they should be judged any differently. On the internet you will find claims that, for example, Coral Calcium, B-17, Shark's Cartilage and Essiac cure cancer. It is true that one may help alkalise the body, while another may boost the immune system. There may be herbs in Essiac that can kill cancer cells, and the logic of B-17 as a cancer biochemistry disrupter may be sound. But that does not make them universal cancer cures any more than Herceptin.

And so this section of our web site seeks simply to pass on information. What you do with it is your business. And here it is worth expressing a note of caution. Where possible on this web site we have mentioned that there are clinical trials on the work of Gonzalez, or beneficial bacteria; or meditation and acupuncture. But the very nature of Alternative Cancer Therapy means that it often comes without the rigours of clinical research as a support. Cancer patients using alternative cancer 'medicine' should check and recheck any proposed course of action and satisfy themselves that the therapy and the proponent really could deliver a benefit. **We stress that in all cases, cancer patients should consult with their medical professional before undertaking, or refraining from, any medical action or treatment.**

Since the implication of using an alternative is that you will be giving up 'orthodox' treatment, you should not rush into this lightly. It is also extremely likely that your oncologist will be totally against alternative medicine.

On this web site we simply try to provide information on the options and choices that are available in the general area of 'alternative cancer healing'. We also rely on accurate feed back from readers. And as we continually state, if you find inaccuracy in what we write and can send us accurate details we will do our best to incorporate those for the benefit of others.

A guide to some Alternative Cancer Treatments

Some alternative therapies base their work on the claim that over half of all cancers seem to be caused by a poor diet. They try to rectify this. Alternative diet therapies - like those of [Dr Gonzalez](#) and [Professor Ben Pfeiffer](#) - do have clinical trials behind them, where others (like the [Gerson Therapy](#)) do not. These alternative therapies sometimes revolve around pancreatic enzymes, or cutting oestrogen (the female sex hormone) or metabolic therapy, which involves the use by 'alternative therapists' such as [Dr Contreras](#) at The Oasis of Hope of not just pancreatic enzymes but vitamin [B 17](#) (b 17, or B-17) and [vitamin C megadoses](#).

Some alternative therapists like [Dr Burzynski](#) believe that in cancer there is a loss of important peptides, and so they try to help your body replace them.

Other alternative cancer treatments may involve the use of ozone therapy, for example as a part of metabolic therapy. This is still in its infancy, but the principle behind it is that oxygen kills cancer cells. Another route using this thinking uses injections of agents which lock onto cancer cells. When light of a certain frequency is shone on these agents, they give off oxygen which kills the cancer cell. This is called PDT, or [Photodynamic Therapy](#). We will tell you about SPDT too which uses sound rather than light to energise the active agent.

Then there is another route which acknowledges that cancer cells can only be killed by heat. [Hyperthermia treatment](#) is used to kill the cancer; the heating is most usually provided by a high intensity version of [Ultrasound](#). HIFU is now being studied in depth as a way of killing cancers.

There are also vaccines that can be made from your own cancer in an attempt to reboot your immune system to better recognize and fight the cancer.

We could mention more here, but the controlling principal is that there are a number of expert alternative health practitioners trying to find non-invasive alternative therapies and an alternative cure for cancer.

And this quest that starts from the essence of the Hippocratic Oath 'thou shall do no harm' is another reason this is all so confusing.

Some of the above are now being increasingly studied as mainstream cancer treatments. Yesterday's alternative treatment like HIFU or PDT could well be tomorrow's mainstream.

And many of the rest of the above should more correctly be grouped together as 'alternative and complementary cancer therapies'. Many can, and are used to complement chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and many can be used more than once as treatments. Unfortunately, most usually cancer patients only turn to such alternative treatments when the orthodox routes have failed the patient and, in a number of cases, even caused more harm than the original cancer.

Many cancer patients are exploring these alternatives at an earlier stage, thanks to the growth of the internet and informative, independent web sites such as CANCERactive. And when the best of orthodox is combined with the best of complementary therapies and alternative treatments, you are on your way to building an effecting holistic cancer therapy. For more on how to build your own holistic cancer plan, read the article on our unique ACTIVE8 Programme by [clicking here](#).

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