

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF NUTRITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE Inc.
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SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY

The current delivery of services to cancer patients is inadequate. Patients are not given appropriate advice as to the harmful effects of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which may actually accelerate tumour growth and spread.

There is extremely good high – level scientific evidence that the effects of orthodox treatments, in particular surgery and radiotherapy, produce inflammatory mediations which act as tumour growth factors.

There is also, very good evidence that many vitamins, minerals, trace elements, enzymes and herbal extracts can not only significantly reduce the toxicity of standard orthodox treatments, but they also greatly improve the clinical outcomes and prognosis and may allow more extensive and intensive orthodox treatments. These adjunctive therapies are not widely available and oncologists rarely recommend them.

The current barriers to implementation of the above are the medical profession itself, the media with its tendency to bias, various government institutions and the difficulty of obtaining some of the substances due to regulatory restrictions and hurdles. Well informed and reasonably wealthy Australians often travel overseas for integrative, ethical, safe unorthodox treatments.

There is a very broad scientific literature base available to support the use of “unconventional” therapies in cancer patient care. There is also, in Australia, a large and non-medical, who can deliver to the cancer patient and their family, quality efficacious and safe treatments and care. There are also academics with over 30 years experience. More research is required, especially into the potential for prevention of cancer patients. For example, vitamin E and Selenium may reduce the incidence of bowel, stomach and lung cancer. These interventions are powerful yet simple, cheap and very safe.

In individual cases, it may be better to delay the conventional approach and improve the general health of the patient with diet, exercise, natural health products and stress management. Doing so will either improve the state of health of the patient before surgery or radiotherapy or, in some cases, induce a remission. More research is needed but there is extremely good evidence to endorse this management strategy.

Government must support the health professionals and researchers in this field. There is good evidence that many cancers can be prevented with changes in diet and lifestyle beyond the anti-smoking campaigns.

However, a cautionary note, The conventional practitioners and researches should play only a minimal role in the research, teaching, and practices of less conventional cancer treatment which should remain in the realms of the appropriately qualified and experienced, Again, there is good evidence that at all levels of the health system – from the researches to the doctors, the pharmaceutical industry and within government and the various regulatory bodies – State and Federal.

I have enclosed only 1 reference and would be very happy to discuss the submission in greater detail.

Yours faithfully,

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