



INFORMED CONSENT AND WAIVER FOR THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES IN THE SUPPORT OF CANCER PATIENTS

It is my belief that the use of treatments designed to enhance the natural functioning of the body, and particularly the immune system, can aid in the treatment of cancer. There is certainly a growing body of evidence supporting the notion that nutritional interventions can be helpful in preventing cancer from developing. At this time, however, there is no scientific evidence to suggest that nutritional or herbal treatments should be used in place of conventional medical therapies. I am happy to work with you in a supportive role in concert with your oncologist in the treatment of your condition. I am also happy to work with you if, after appropriate informed consent by your medical doctor or oncologist, you have decided to forego conventional medical treatment. I do so, however, with the understanding that there is only a small amount of scientific evidence that some non-traditional therapies, in particular the use of certain nutritional supplements, may be helpful in the treatment of cancer.

At present there is a great deal of controversy surrounding the concomitant use of antioxidants with chemotherapy and whether this is safe or reduces the effectiveness of the chemotherapy. It was originally thought that chemotherapeutic agents worked by an oxidative mechanism so that giving antioxidants at the same time would interfere with their action. There is now evidence that many chemotherapy drugs may work by a different mechanism that is not affected by antioxidants. The current available evidence suggests that, with the exception of a few specific instances, there is no reduction of effectiveness of chemotherapy or radiation when antioxidants are given concomitantly. In fact, considerable data exists from human, animal, and laboratory studies showing increased effectiveness of many cancer therapeutic agents, as well as a decrease in side effects, when given concurrently with antioxidants. Nevertheless, this question has not been answered with any degree of certainty and requires more study for a definitive answer.

I have read and understand the above

Signed

Date

Witness