

The homeopathic treatment of people with cancer

For the past two years CLAN, a cancer link and support centre in Aberdeen, has offered a homeopathic service. The following thoughts are distilled from two years experience there, using homeopathy to help people at all stages of the disease.

Cancer as a disease

Cancer is a disease in which the cells of the body have become rebellious and are behaving abnormally. The overgrowth associated with cancer represents something out of control. The cells no longer work with the body to benefit the whole, but instead have become isolated and alienated.

The body has a natural ability to maintain healthy balance (homeostasis) and to defend itself against disease, so this function must be disturbed in order for cancer to flourish. A homeopath will listen carefully to your experiences in life and ask 'what disturbed your vitality?' and 'why is your body not healing itself?'. We can attempt to address these problems using homeopathic treatments. The holistic model of health says all disease comes from a disturbance in the vitality (life force) of the body. The energetic disturbance creates symptoms in the mind, the emotions and the physical body. Each patient has their own story of how this disturbance in vitality came about and each person has individual symptoms. We will attempt, as far as possible, to treat the whole person and to change the conditions that created your susceptibility to cancer.

Using Homeopathy to treat people with cancer

Homeopathic treatment can help someone with cancer. It can also be helpful for people who have a history of cancer in their family or have cared for a relative or friend with cancer. There are a number of methods of using homeopathic remedies to help people with cancer.

Constitutional treatment: Treat the person who suffers the illness. A constitutional homeopathic remedy suits your nature as a person and its symptom picture reflects the unique expression of your symptoms. It can arouse the body's natural ability to heal itself and this can have profound benefits. It is appropriate if your vitality is strong.

Stimulate the immune system to fight cancer: Remedies can be used to help the body fight the cancer, using specific homeopathic remedies called nosodes. A second treatment may be used to support the weakened organ. This method is most useful for people who are not using chemotherapy or radiotherapy

Support the failing organs and the functions of the body that are not working:

Remedies can be used to support weakened organs; to help with appetite; to help sleep and to treat sleep disturbances; to reduce the toxic symptoms; to help the body eliminate toxins. These treatments are helpful to people undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

Treat the pain: Homeopathic remedies can be very effective in aiding pain control. Remedies such as calendula can be effective in situations of intractable pain. If the cancer is at the terminal stage, remedies can be used to increase the quality of life. These remedies are palliative and can assist the patient keep mentally and emotionally alert so they can have quality time with loved ones.

Homeopathy in conjunction with other therapies

When a patient chooses to use chemotherapy or radiotherapy to treat their cancer the homeopath will prescribe remedies to support the body and ease the side-effects. Remedies can also be very useful after surgery to encourage the body to heal and allow greater mobility at an early stage.

Other therapies can complement homeopathy but the homeopath will advise that you do not use every therapy just because they are available. It may be better to choose two or perhaps three main approaches to improving your health and ensure each one has positive effects that suit you very well. Each person will have different needs. It is always appropriate to change your diet. Nutritional and dietary advice is of the utmost importance to support the body's healing process. Cancer has many symptoms of disturbed metabolism and a poor diet has often contributed to the disturbance in the body that allowed the cancer to flourish. It is essential to remedy this situation. Nutritional advice puts you back in charge of your body; with good homeopathic treatments this provides the basis for improving your health.