

Norman R. Smith, D.C., LLC

Cancer

After thirty-five years of practice, I have realized it is time to say a few things about cancer. In the 1980s, we rarely saw people with cancer diagnoses. It was extremely rare to hear of a child with cancer. That has all changed to a point now where we hear of another cancer diagnosis almost weekly.

The medical industry has been fighting there war on cancer for thirty years now and what do we have to show for all the billions of dollars spent? Our church prayer list is in most part people with cancer. We now have record numbers of children with cancer. At current rates of increase, one in two adults alive today will experience a cancer diagnosis.

So, what are the implications to today's chiropractic practice? What do we need to undersand as chiropractic practice members and chiropractic providers?

1. Medical doctors diagnose and treat cancer.
2. Chiropractic doctors do not diagnose or treat cancer.
3. Chiropractic examination and x-ray procedures may or may not find any evidence of cancer.
4. Chiropractors see patients in their offices every day who have diagnosed and undiagnosed cancers.
5. Modern chiropractic adjustments are safe for all, but a very few cancer situations.

So, what does all this mean as we practice chiropractic today and as you receive chiropractic care today? First, it means that you may have cancer and it may or may not be detectable or be found with routine chiropractic examination and x-rays. Secondly, our chiropractic evaluation is designed to make sure it is safe to provide chiropractic services and then, what type is most appropriate for you. Thirdly, if you suspect you have a cancer issue or we see something that causes us to suspect cancer you will need to seek medical evaluation.

And lastly, yes, I have many times found tumors or evidence of cancers on the x-rays we take. My response is always to give the person the x-rays and ask them to seek medical evaluation. It is also possible that our films simply will not show evidence of an existing cancer or tumor.

In light of this information, we advise our present and future practice members to never ignore a clinical symptom that does not greatly improve or go away with responsible medical or chiropractic care. Symptoms are always effects with a cause somewhere. When symptoms go on with no improvement, you must spare no effort in finding the cause.

On a personal note, I have worked on many people who have or have had cancers of all forms. These people see tremendous benefits from regular chiropractic care. They are a joy to care for.

If you have questions about this or any other topic, please bring the questions to my attention. I will be happy to discuss this topic in more detail if you desire.