

Welcome Pack

Welcome to Yes to Life,

Yes to Life (Y2L) is dedicated to making integrated cancer care a reality by providing information on a range of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) available throughout the UK. Over the years the demand for CAM therapies has increased and many people are now aware that they can play a vital role in the approach to cancer. The integrated medical approach¹ to cancer is often confusing as there is so much information available. Y2L aims to make it easier for those with cancer to find the best treatments for their individual circumstances.

Our Services

HelpCentre

The HelpCentre is currently our primary means of offering assistance. Enquiries can be made through:

Our HelpLine **0870 163 2990**

By e-mail helpcentre@yestolife.org.uk

Information available includes the following:

- Information on CAM therapies worldwide
- Information on practitioners, clinics and suppliers
- Qualified advice on developing a personalised treatment programme (though our partnership with Cancer Options)
- Nutritional advice
- Psychological and emotional support
- Funding support for consultations and treatments for those in need
- Specialised equipment on loan



Internet Services

Our website, www.yestolife.org.uk, contains a wealth of information for people with cancer. Our searchable web directory, **LIFE>**, is a unique service, accessible direct from our home page. It enables users to quickly identify promising CAM therapies for their particular cancer, as well as to locate practitioners and suppliers involved with those therapies. The second phase of this service, currently under development, will enable users to engage in dialogue with other users to share personal experiences of the treatments and practitioners found in the directory.

One to One Service

The One to One scheme aims to provide cancer patients with personalised support from diagnosis, through treatment, and if necessary, beyond. Patients will be assigned a 'Partner' who will work closely with them right through their cancer journey, assisting them through each stage. This is a pilot scheme at the moment but we intend to develop this and provide the scheme

¹ An integrated approach to cancer combines the best of orthodox and complementary methods

Testimonials

“Thank you SO much, I am extremely grateful. Throughout my ordeal over the last few years, it’s so heart warming to at last get help from someone who actually cares about me. Thank you!!”

HelpCentre caller

“Thanks so much for your support in helping me in my search to understand and move forward towards a cure with this testicular cancer from which I am suffering. It is such a boost to communicate with your team and to receive so much feedback so promptly. It has given me a real feeling that I am going in the right direction and I am glad to know there is support and practical help for people like me now, and in the future. It can be a scary and lonely journey at times so thank you for your warmth. Once again, many thanks to you and all at Yes to Life.”

HelpCentre caller

“When I chose alternative over conventional cancer treatment, Yes to Life offered me a home. Their enthusiasm and support made me feel like a hero rather than a renegade. All power to them in showing a future for cancer medicine that is humane and effective, based on solid evidence and that allows hope to triumph over fear.”

Al Smith, Prostate Cancer Now

Contact details:

HelpCentre

0870 163 2990

helpcentre@yestolife.org.uk

Mailing address

Unit 7, Block C, Imperial Works
Perren Street, London, NW5 3ED

General dietary and lifestyle suggestions

Optimum nutrition for support through cancer



Most of us are aware that good health begins with good food but often it can be difficult to know exactly what the most crucial changes are. Conflicting messages in the media can be confusing and our hectic lifestyles may mean we reach for foods that are not always the best choice. These general dietary guidelines may provide support during cancer and help to get you back on track to optimal health.

Please note additional handouts are available on request – text highlighted in blue indicate an available hand-out and their names are in brackets.

Foods to increase

Organic foods

Organic foods have had less exposure to pesticides, fertilisers, preservatives and hormones. This reduces your intake of these harmful chemicals. It is also thought that organic produce has a higher level of nutrients than intensely farmed non-organic produce.

Anti-oxidant fruits and vegetables

Fruit and vegetables are rich sources of several compounds that are anti-oxidants. Anti-oxidants are natural compounds that work together to boost detoxification, improve immune function, reduce inflammation, improve cellular structure, and protect against toxic compounds. Aim to choose a variety of bright, colourful fruit and vegetables and eat at least 8 portions a day. Please see the [anti-oxidant rich diet](#) handout (diet1) for further information. Include mushrooms such as the maitake, reishi and shiitake mushrooms as they contain molecules that may help boost the immune system. [Juicing](#) (diet2) can often be a good way of increasing anti-oxidants. Juices are best prepared at home and consumed within 15 minutes to obtain the maximum benefit.

Fibre

Food sources such as vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds, wholegrains, beans and pulses are rich in fibre. It has been shown to feed the beneficial bacteria in the intestines thus helping to prevent constipation and the build up of toxins. Please also see [good sources](#) (diet5) handout for more information.

N.B. If you have cancer of the digestive tract and have been given an ileostomy or colostomy you will be unable to follow a high fibre diet. It is also essential to have a good water intake if you follow a high fibre diet.

Water

It is important to maintain a good [water](#) (diet3) intake, aim to drink at least 1½ to 2 litres a day. This is roughly equivalent to 8 large glasses a day. Tap water can contain chemicals and hormonal residues and so it is best to use a water filter, preferably a reverse osmosis filter. If this is not possible then a filter jug or bottled water is suitable. If bottled water is used it is best from a glass not plastic bottle, this is because the plastic bottles may leach xeno-oestrogens (false oestrogens that can mimic our own hormones in the body) into the water.

Healthy fats

The omega 3 oils found in walnuts, flax seeds and oily fish such as salmon, tuna, herring, mackerel, trout and sardines have good anti-inflammatory actions and so may support the immune system. Aim to eat 3 portions of oily fish a week and snack on nuts and seeds; an omega 3 supplement may also be of benefit.

Foods to reduce

Red meat and dairy

It is advisable to decrease your intake of red meat and dairy, as they are often high in saturated fats. The saturated fats may be broken down in the body and this may lead to increased inflammation. Inflammation has been linked to the onset of and progression of cancer. Ideally keep intake of beef, lamb, pork and duck to no more than once a week and make sure it is a lean organic source. Foods such as sausages, pâtés, salami, processed meats; bacon and corned beef should be eaten rarely if at all. Avoid overcooked, barbequed and burnt meat as these produce a lot of free radicals in the body. Free radicals have been linked with damage in cells that may lead to cancer or the progression of cancer. Keep milk, butter, cream, cheese and ice cream intake low. Choose semi-skimmed or skimmed milk and go for olive oil spreads instead of butter.

Sugar

Tumour cells have been shown to feed off simple carbohydrates – sugars – and so it is vital to reduce your intake of sugars and sugary foods. It has also been shown that a high intake of sugar can suppress white blood cells by up to 50% for up to five hours after consumption. Avoid white “refined” foods, such as white breads, pasta and rice, and choose wholegrain alternatives. Be aware of processed foods, these are often laden with sugars and sweeteners. Keep chocolate and confectionary intake to a minimum.

Coffee and tea

Coffee and tea stimulate the adrenal glands releasing sugar into the system. They also have a dehydrating effect and if taken after a meal can decrease the absorption of nutrients. Keep tea and coffee to 1-2 cups a day. Try [caffeine free](#) (diet4) alternatives.

Foods to avoid

Pre-packaged and ready made food

The quick and easy ready-made foods found in most supermarkets should be avoided. They have been over processed and therefore low in most nutrients. They are often laden with sugar, salt, saturated fats, additives, flavourings and preservatives.

Trans fats and hydrogenated fats

Trans fats and hydrogenated fats are found in margarines, spreads and other refined products such as biscuits and other packaged foods. The body will use these fats in the absence of the more healthy essential fats. This may promote weakness in the cells structure and progression of cancer. These fats also tend to interfere with the more positive anti-inflammatory actions of the healthy essential fat found in nuts and seeds.

Artificial sweeteners

Artificial sweeteners are in many products on the supermarket shelves. One of the main artificial sweeteners is a substance called Aspartame. These artificial chemicals may play a role in immune disruption and are best left out of the diet. If you have a sweet tooth use xylitol instead. It is a natural molecule that has a natural sweetness to it and has been shown to be a suitable sugar alternative with fewer effects on the body. It can be found in most supermarkets usually in the free from or healthy range section.

Alcohol

Alcohol has many effects within the body. It has been shown to deplete the body of B vitamins, reduce immune functioning and increase the workload of the liver. Alcohol is also very high in sugar. If you find it difficult to give up alcohol completely cut your intake down and try to change to organic sources of wine or the cleaner spirits, well diluted with fresh juices and water.

Salt

High salt foods should be avoided this includes soy sauce, miso, anchovies, salted peanuts, crisps and any heavily salted meals. Do not add salt to your cooking and meals; use different seasonings and herbs instead. If you must use salt use the low sodium, high potassium alternatives such as Lo-salt and Solo.

Fizzy drinks

Carbonated soft drinks are loaded with either sugar or artificial sweeteners. The phosphoric acid used to maintain the “fizz” has been shown to increase losses of certain minerals. The artificial colourants and flavours also put a load on the body’s elimination systems. Choose fresh juices diluted with water or chilled water with a slice of lemon or lime instead.

These recommendations are a general guideline of supportive dietary alterations. In some cases there may be more specific recommendations for each individual person that may be of benefit. Please ask for more information on how to obtain specific advice.

Lifestyle recommendations for support through cancer

There are several ways in which lifestyle may affect progression through cancer. A **positive mental attitude** has been shown to have a significant effect on how we cope with the situation and in some cases has shown to be associated with a better outcome and quality of life. It can often be difficult to maintain a positive outlook during cancer and it is essential to have some help and support. This may be provided in many ways – through friends, colleagues, and support groups or through a counsellor or other practitioner. Do not be afraid to ask for help, its importance cannot be overestimated.

Another way to aid a positive mental attitude is through **visualisation** (life1). Visualisation techniques such as imagining the body producing white blood cells and watching them engulf the cancer cells and removing them from the body may assist in the treatment of cancer and improve quality of life.

Stress may play a large role in the development of cancer and naturally once a diagnosis of cancer has been made there is a considerable amount of stress experienced. **Stress reduction** may result in a better functioning immune system and a more positive outlook. Each person has their own way of dealing with stress and there are several ways that are beneficial. Time management and knowing your limits are often forgotten but vitally important. Other ways to reduce stress include massage, aromatherapy, meditation and moderate exercise. Aim to take part in activities such as tai chi, swimming, walking, golf or yoga at least 2-3 times a week.

Stop smoking and avoid inhaling second hand smoke. Help to quit smoking can be found through your GP or pharmacy staff. Hypnotherapy has also been shown to be of benefit

Environmental issues

Unfortunately we are exposed to an ever-increasing list of potentially cancer causing agent. These carcinogenic agents may be found in the air we breathe, the food that we eat and water we drink. They are found primarily in agricultural pesticides and sprays, industrial chemicals and city pollution. It is important to take a serious look at what you use:

- To clean your home
- To clean your teeth
- On your skin
- In your garden

Excessive ultra violet radiation from the sun, sunlamps and x- rays also have a negative effect upon the body and it is important to avoid these. Xeno-oestrogens (false oestrogens) may be found in plastics, industrial



chemicals and also in our water supply. These have been implicated in hormone sensitive cancers and should be avoided.

Useful organisations

Information on cancer types and treatments

www.yestolife.org.uk - Life Resources- Click on **LIFE>**, A searchable directory of alternative cancer treatments, clinics, organisations, practitioners and suppliers.

www.self-helpcancer.org - A useful site for cancer patients in search of solutions by John Davidson

Clinics and organisations offering support and guidance

Cancer Options
57 Harley Street
London. W1G 8QS
Tel: 0845 009 2041

www.canceroptions.co.uk

A private, cancer consultancy that offers consultations and guidance for all the different cancer treatments and therapies.

Health Creation
The Aphorp Centre
Weston Rd
Weston
Bath. BA1 2XT
Tel: 0845 009 3366

www.healthcreation.co.uk

A clinic run by Dr Rosy Daniel that offers a holistic approach to cancer treatment that integrates both conventional and alternative medicines. Treatments include diet, supplements and mind-body techniques.

The Dove Clinic
Hockley Mill Stables
Church Lane
Twyford
Hants. SO21 1NT
Tel 01962 71800

London Clinic
19 Wimpole Street
London. W1G 8GE
Tel: 020 7580 8884

www.doveclinic.com

A clinic supporting the body through cancer and using treatments such as photodynamic therapy and intravenous vitamin C.

Penny Brohn Cancer Care
Chapel Pill Lane
Bristol. BS20 0HH
Tel: 0845 123 2310

www.pennybrohncancercare.org

A clinic offering residential and day courses in self help during cancer including alternative therapies such as massage and shiatsu as well as dietary counselling and psychotherapy.

Park Attwood Clinic
Trimply
Bewdley
Worcestershire. DY12 1RE.
Tel: 01299 861444

www.parkattwood.org

A clinic using anthroposophical medicine (based on Rudolf Steiners work) with an inpatient facility, offering a range of supportive therapies including hyperthermia and mistletoe treatment.

High Tree Clinic
Eastbourne Road
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5QL
Tel: 01825 761 140

The High Tree Clinic offer many treatments including intra-venous vitamin C and hyperthermia treatment.

Emotional Support

The Cancer Counselling Trust
1 Noel Road
London. N1 8HQ
Tel: 020 7704 1137

www.cctrust.co.uk

A charity offering therapy and support for those with cancer and their families.

Macmillan Cancer Support
89 Albert Embankment
London. SE1 7UQ
Tel: 0808 808 2020

www.macmillan.org.uk

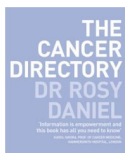
Macmillan provide practical, medical, emotional and financial support and campaign for better cancer care.

Books

The Cancer Directory

Dr Rosy Daniel

ISBN:0007154275

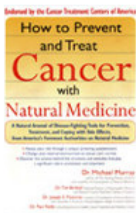


Dr Daniel has used her 20 years experience at the Bristol Cancer Centre to compile a 400+ page book that guides the cancer sufferer through every step of the journey. The book covers topics such as the orthodox approach as well as the complementary approach. It focuses on the emotional aspects of dealing with cancer as well as the body-mind link.

How to prevent and treat cancer with natural medicine

Dr Michael Murray and Others

ISBN: 1573223433

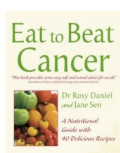


This book provides vital information on prevention and treatment through natural means. It offers a wealth of information on how to cope with the effects of orthodox treatment and is fully backed up by scientific references.

Eat to beat cancer

Dr Rosy Daniel and Jane Sen

ISBN: 000714704X



This is a very practical book full of useful recipes and ideas. It also makes suggestions on how to implement the changes and incorporate them into your lifestyle.

Service Disclaimer

1. Yes To Life's service provides access to information about treatments for cancer and is intended in particular to assist its users to find out about alternative treatments that may be available. Yes To Life has used all reasonable care and skill in compiling the content of the service but provides no warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy of any information and cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions.
2. Yes To Life's service is not provided by fully qualified health practitioners or doctors able to give advice on medical matters. Cancer is a very serious and individual disease. Users must consult with experts in their appropriate medical field before taking up any form of treatment. The information provided under this service is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.
3. Yes To Life shall not be liable to any person for any loss or damage which may arise from the use of the information provided under this service. These exclusions of liability will not apply to damages arising from death or personal injury caused by the negligence of Yes To Life or any of its employees or agents.
4. Users of this service are responsible for compliance with local laws if and to the extent they are applicable.
5. This disclaimer is prepared under and shall be governed by English law.

Photos courtesy of www.freedigitalphotos.net

Nutritional information courtesy of www.kwnutrition.net