

As published 4/30/2008 in the Chevy Chase/Bethesda/Kensington Gazette

ADVERTISEMENT

FDA FIDDLES 27,000 MEN DIE

4/30/08 Care To Live brings you week #5 of our Rockville area weekly plea from patients, physicians or families of patients, who suffer from advanced prostate cancer, which will continue until the FDA acts in a humane manner.

On behalf of our members we filed a Citizens Petition on July 27, 2007 asking the FDA to reconsider the failure to approve Provenge and by law they should have properly responded in January. To date they have not properly responded.

The FDA ignores our Petition while our members continue to die painful deaths.

Why can't the FDA Commissioner consider the patients and take some action? We want better, safer treatments NOW!

To read our past, present, and future ads visit our website. See you next week in Rockville.

Dear Reader,

Some 220,000 American men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year. Unfortunately, 27,000 of them go on to die from the disease yearly. Those unfortunate individuals often suffer a lingering, painful death.

Unlike breast cancer where

there are many options for treatment for advanced disease, prostate cancer has few treatment options. The patients suffer with the side effects of hormone treatment. These include weight gain, loss of libido and muscle mass, depression, exacerbation of heart disease and fatigue.



Dr. Robert Rostock

When that fails there is only one effective chemotherapy drug which many patients refuse or can't complete due to considerable side effects.

Last year the FDA failed to approve a promising new drug called Provenge for the treatment of prostate cancer.

The FDA convened a panel of experts to advise them whether the drug should be ap-

proved. The panel voted 17-0 that the drug was safe and 13-4 that it was effective. In an unprecedented move, the FDA did not approve the drug.

The decision was marred with conflicts of interest and back room politics. The FDA has neither disciplined or investigated the individuals involved.

As a result of the decision, many physicians have become critical and cynical of the FDA.

It is difficult to watch patients suffer and die when they have run out of options and there is a promising treatment such as Provenge.

The FDA could have made the drug available while monitoring the results of an additional trial. Instead they chose to wait for more data and allow more deaths to occur from this disease.

Sincerely,

Robert A Rostock MD

Chairman of Oncology, Geisinger, South Wilkes Barre, PA; Chairman, Radiation Oncology, Wyoming Valley Health Care, and Chair, Institutional Review Board; former faculty member and specialist in immunology research, Johns Hopkins Hospital

CareToLive is a not for profit corporation

This is OUR FDA

We need to take it back from certain FDA individuals with their own ambitions

FDA Approve Provenge Now!

More on this sordid affair at

www.CareToLive.com