

BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

www.bccancerservice.org

In honor of the committed service of Olove Colcord, R.N.

THE MISSION OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE:

To provide free skilled home nursing services, equipment, information and supplies at cost for cancer patients and their families in Berrien County.



April 2013

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXII

ISSUE IV

The **BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** is a group for patients, family members and care givers. Come share successes, feelings, fears and practical methods of coping with the physical and emotional aspects of living with the diagnosis of cancer.

A Little Laugh

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee,
Or the key to a lock of his hair?
Can his eyes be called an academy because
There are pupils there?
Is the crown of your head where jewels are found?
Who travels the bridge of your nose?
If you wanted to shingle the roof of your mouth,
Would you use the nails of your toes?
Can you sit in the shade of the palm of your hand
Or beat on the drum of your ear?
Can the calf in your leg eat the corn off your toe?
Then why not grow corn on the ear?
Can the crook of your elbow be sent to jail?
If so, just what did he do?
How can you sharpen your shoulder blades?
I'll be darned if I know - do you?
Author Unknown



The BCCS Bulletin Board

Last Year Pennies for Patients™ Raised

\$16,441.00

With Your Help - WE CAN TOP THIS!!!!

We invite you to come join the fun

May 9, 2013



6:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. in Stevensville – 7301 Red Arrow Highway

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Niles – Masonic Temple Building

(227 ½ E. Main Street)

Lobby on 3rd Street

Refreshments will be served at both locations.

There will also be a **WHEAT BACK PENNY AUCTION**

One 15 pound jar with bidding starting at \$75.00

You may phone your bid in to 269-429-3281.



Save the date: June 23

For our 18th Annual Bike Ride

If you are unable to ride, join the fun by sponsoring a BCCS rider or buying bike raffle tickets. We are also looking for

volunteers who are willing to sell bike raffle tickets.

Call the office (269-429-3281) if you would like to participate.

On Wednesday, March 13, the BCCS staff enjoyed sponsoring a luncheon for the Marie Yeager Cancer Center physicians and staff. While we were meeting and greeting, we discovered we all have one common goal besides eating! Our goal is to help and support patients in their fight against cancer. Anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer or has a family member with cancer, please do not hesitate to call us at 269-429-3281 or 269-465-5257.

Understanding Cancer Prognosis

Key Points

- A prognosis is an estimate of the likely course and outcome of a disease.
- Many factors affect the prognosis of a person with cancer, including the type, location, and stage of the cancer.
- When estimating a patient's prognosis, doctors usually use statistics based on data from groups of people whose situations are most similar to that of the patient.
- Doctors cannot estimate with certainty what the outcome will be for an individual cancer patient.

1. What is a prognosis?

A prognosis is an estimate of the likely course and outcome of a disease. The prognosis of a patient diagnosed with cancer is often viewed as the chance that the disease will be treated successfully and that the patient will recover.

2. What factors affect a patient's prognosis?

Many factors can influence the prognosis of a person with cancer. Among the most important are the type and location of the cancer, the stage of the disease (the extent to which the cancer has spread in the body), and the cancer's grade (how abnormal the cancer cells look under a microscope—an indicator of how quickly the cancer is likely to grow and spread).

Other factors that affect prognosis include the biological and genetic properties of the cancer cells (these properties, which are sometimes called biomarkers, can be determined by specific lab and imaging tests), the patient's age and overall general health, and the extent to which the patient's cancer responds to treatment.

3. How do statistics contribute to predicting a patient's prognosis?

In estimating a cancer patient's prognosis, doctors consider the characteristics of the patient's disease, the available treatment options, and any health problems the patient may have that could affect the course of the disease or its ability to be treated successfully.

The doctor bases the prognosis, in large part, on information researchers have collected over many years about hundreds or even thousands of people with the same type of cancer. When possible, doctors use statistics based on groups of people whose situations are most similar to that of the patient.

4. Is it helpful to know the prognosis?

Cancer patients and their loved ones face many unknowns. Understanding their disease and what to expect can help patients and their loved ones make decisions about treatment, supportive and palliative care, rehabilitation, and personal matters, such as financial matters. Seeking information about prognosis is a personal decision.

Many people with cancer want to know their prognosis. They find it easier to cope when they know the likely course of their disease. Some patients may ask their doctor about survival statistics or search for this information on their own. Other people find statistical information confusing and frightening, and they think it is too impersonal to be of value to them. It is up to each patient to decide how much information he or she wants.

A doctor who is most familiar with a patient's situation is in the best position to discuss his or her prognosis and explain what the statistics may mean.

5. What is the prognosis if a patient decides not to have treatment?

Because everyone's situation is different (see Question 2), this question can be difficult to answer. Also, information used in making a prognosis often comes from studies that have compared new treatments with existing treatments rather than with "no treatment." Therefore, it is not always easy for doctors to accurately estimate the prognosis of a patient who decides not to have treatment. However, as mentioned above (see Question 4), a doctor who is most familiar with a patient's situation is in the best position to discuss his or her prognosis. There are many reasons why patients may decide not to have treatment. Some patients may be concerned that the benefits of cancer treatments will be outweighed by the side effects. Patients should discuss this concern with their doctor or other health care provider.

Many medications are available to prevent or control the side effects caused by cancer treatments.

Some patients may decide at some point not to have treatment if they know that their type and stage of cancer has a poor prognosis, despite treatment. Patients who choose not to have active cancer treatment should talk with their doctor to ensure that they get palliative treatment to help with the symptoms caused by their disease.

In these cases, patients may want to think about clinical trials. Clinical trials are research studies that involve people. They test new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose, or treat diseases.

People who take part in cancer clinical trials have an opportunity to contribute to scientists' knowledge about cancer and to help in the development of improved cancer therapies. They also receive state-of-the-art care from cancer experts.

People interested in taking part in a clinical trial should talk with their doctor. Information about clinical trials is available from NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) and in the NCI booklet, [Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies](#)

In Loving Memory

During February 2013, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people

In Memory of Dr. John Bruni

Nancy & Richard McCreedy, Niles

In Memory of Filiberto Contreras

Paulette Adams, Sodus
Angelo & Sharon Costanza, Sodus

In Memory of Valerie Gelder

Donald C. Richmond, St. Joseph

In Memory of Ruth Lynn Lagoni

Ruth Pridavka, Garland TX

In Memory of Laurine Lawrence

Gladys Sandera, Stevensville

In Memory of Howard Merchant

Lisa Demaline, Naperville, IL

In Memory of Veryl Pagels

Joyce Karen Totzke, St. Joseph

In Memory of Daniel Pahl

Bruno Pahl, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Corrinne Rock

Duane & Nancy Smith, Galien

In Memory of Michalene "Mickie" Smith

Ron Hein Sr. & Family, Ron Hein Jr, Randy Hein,
Richard Hein & Families, Galien
Debbie Brewer & Family, New Carlisle, IN
Dr. Patricia Moore Families, South Bend, IN

In Memory of Bill Stringfellow

Shoreline Garden Garden Club, Eau Claire

In Memory of Jacqueline Tysman

Donald & Colette Metzger, Stevensville

In Memory of Frederick Watts

Bennett Leedy, Coloma
Jean Daniels, Riverside
Kevin & Brenda Kniebes, Coloma
Cheryl Weise, St. Joseph

In Memory of Larry & Barbara Winnell

Fran Konya, St. Joseph
St. Joseph Seventh-day Adventist Church, St. Joseph

Berrien County Cancer Service sends our sincere sympathy to all those who have recently lost loved ones. We thank all of our generous donors. Your donations are very much appreciated and will help cancer patients in Berrien County.

Thank you.

Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville

April 2 & 16 - 1:30 p.m.

May 7 & 21 - 6:30 p.m.

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

April 9 & 23 - 1:30 p.m.

May 14 & 28 - 1:30 p.m.

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville

April 16 - 1:30 p.m.

May 21 - 1:30 p.m.

RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

April 11 - 5:30 p.m.

May 9 - 5:30 p.m.

Ostomy Support Group

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

April 11 - 6:00 p.m.

May 9 - 6:00 p.m.

Man to Man – Prostate Support Group

Trinity Center, St. Joseph

April 16 - 6:30 p.m.

May 21 - 6:30 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 2 - World Autism Day

April 6 - National Love Our Children Day

April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day

April 15 - Income Tax Pay Day

April 18 - National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day

April 20 - Husband Appreciation Day

April 22 - Mother Earth Day

April 24 - Secretary's Day

April 26 - Audubon Day

April 27 - National Go Birding Day

April 30 - World Healing Day

Newsletters available online

Our newsletters are available on our website:
www.bccancerservice.org. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please call our office at 269-429-3281 or send us an e-mail: staff@bccancerservice.org.

Please Consider...

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc., is a non-profit organization funded primarily by the United Way, private donations and fund-raisers. We receive no Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance payments. To continue our free services to Berrien County cancer patients, we need your help. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Donations to our General Fund will help balance our current budget. Donations to our Endowment Fund will help guarantee that the Cancer Service will be available for as long as needed. Your contribution to our non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation is tax deductible – an acknowledgment and receipt for tax purposes will be sent.

Donations can be made in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one. In these instances, we would also like to send acknowledgment to the honoree or next-of-kin so please provide that information when making your donation.

_____ General Fund _____ Endowment Fund

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

OR

In Memory of _____

Please send notification of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Thank you for your generosity!

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.
7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STEVENSVILLE, MI
PERMIT NO. 129

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Ruth Walker, R.N.

OFFICE STAFF:

Julie Koch (Accounting Manager)
Claudia Brister (Office Manager)
Henrietta Hein (Newsletter)

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville Office

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month - 1:30 p.m.

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

Phone: (269) 429-3281 or (269) 465-5257

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

Niles Senior Center

1109 Bell Road
Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 429-3281

RAINBOWS OF HOPE GROUP- St. Joseph

2nd Thursday of each month – 5:30 p.m.

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

Ward and Kinney Room
3900 Hollywood Rd.

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 556-7114

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Thursday of each month- 6:00 p.m.

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Community Room

1234 Napier Ave

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 983-8804

MAN TO MAN – Prostate Support Group

3rd Tuesday of each month – 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Center

619 Main Street (use Main entrance)

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (800) 465-5244