

Many patients pick unapproved cancer therapies: Your Say

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(Photo: Michael Stravato for USA TODAY)

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Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski, a Houston doctor, has treated 8,000 cancer patients with drugs that have not been approved by the FDA, USA TODAY reported. The agency is investigating the therapy. Comments from Facebook are edited for clarity and grammar:

It seems to me that this doctor has many satisfied customers. And I think that if people want to use alternative therapies, that should be their right. Many people seem to swear by this doctor; all those who support him cannot be totally wrong. Apparently, the Food and Drug Administration did not have enough reason to put him out of business for all these years.

— Larry Hubble

Burzynski sells questionable treatment. In more than four decades, he has not managed to provide evidence from a randomized, controlled trial that his treatments work. And not only that, but the FDA inspectors charge that he has destroyed patients' original records, which would make it even harder to show whether his treatments work.

Now, why would he destroy records if they showed his treatment actually worked?

— Adam Jacobs

I don't know whether this guy's treatment works or not. But here's one thing I do know. There is enough money in the pharmaceutical industry that if somebody threatens the industry, it will spend big money to protect its investments. Knowing this, I would lean toward freedom on this one.

— Stewart Pepper

Letter to the editor:

The article about Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski was nothing more than a hit piece, using quotes from vocal, "skeptical" critics and members of the status quo cancer-fighting establishment ("[Doctor accused of selling false hope to families \(http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/15/stanislaw-burzynski-cancer-controversy/2994561/\)](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/15/stanislaw-burzynski-cancer-controversy/2994561/)").

There was inadequate representation of the other side, the side on which I stand. I am not alone. There are many other fellow Burzynski patients who owe our lives to the pioneering work of this wonderful and courageous man.

The doctor's enemies are relentless in their attacks. Why? Could it be that his treatment threatens the lucrative special-interest groups who benefit from the multibillion dollar cancer-fighting industry?

About 600,000 Americans will die from cancer annually under traditional care. Burzynski should be funded and applauded, not attacked by special-interest groups and their cohorts, such as the Food and Drug Administration.

Sheila Herron; Gig Harbor, Wash.

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