Many anticancer agents are derived from natural sources including plants. As modern chemistry developed, chemicals and various constituents were isolated from medicinal herbs. These phyto-constituents have served either as drugs that are being used widely today or as starting materials for their synthesis. Modern medicines derived from herbs are gaining attention throughout the world today. Potential of modern pharmacology that has played a supportive role in making drugs safer and more medicinal plants are playing an important role as a source of effective anticancer agents and it is significant that 60% of currently used anticancer agents are derived from natural sources including plants. Many plant-derived products have been reported to exhibit potent antitumor activity against several rodent and human cancer cell lines. Having said that, here are some things that are helpful to discuss during your first appointment: What is my diagnosis and how soon do I need to start therapy? What are my treatment options, what's involved, and how long will each treatment take? What are the benefits of the recommended treatment?

Pharmacological studies have revealed that Catharanthus roseus contains more than 70 different types of alkaloids and chemotherapeutic agents that are effective in treating various types of cancers-breast cancer, lung cancer, uterine cancer, melanomas, and Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The plant has been used in traditional medicine since ages in various parts of the world. A number of alkaloids isolated from this plant are already in clinical use, e.g. ajmalicine-an antihypertensive alkaloid, and vincristine and vinblastine-the antineoplastic bisindole alkaloids. Drugs used in the treatment of most cancers are those that can interfere with cell signaling, like growth factor signaling, prostaglandin production, inflammation, drug resistant gene products, cell cycle proteins, angiogenesis, invasion, anti-apoptosis, cellular proliferation and many others.