

Editorial Note on Prognosis of Neck

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The squamous cell carcinoma survival rate is very high—when detected early, the five-year survival rate is 99 percent. Even if squamous cell carcinoma has spread to nearby lymph nodes, the cancer may be effectively treated through a combination of surgery and radiation treatment. When learning about cancer survival rates, it's important to keep in mind that these statistics are based on a very large and diverse group of people. Because no two people with squamous cell carcinoma are alike, the general survival rate cannot be used to predict a specific patient's outcome. Additionally, survival rates are broad benchmarks. While useful as a baseline point of reference for physicians, this information is not detailed enough to reflect the different treatments people have had, nor is it recent enough to include the results of the latest breakthrough treatments now available to patients through clinical trials (and possibly even the current standard of care).

The survival rate also depends on where the cancer first develops. For example, if laryngeal cancer first develops in the vocal cords, the person has an 80% or better chance of survival. If the cancer first shows up in the mouth, the survival rate is much lower. Cancer is one of the most life-threatening diseases and serious public health problems in both developed and developing countries. The major events include transformation, dysregulation of apoptosis, proliferation, invasion, angiogenesis, and metastasis. Patients suffering from cancers of various organs are increasingly exploring the benefits of alternative medicine, primarily because they experience side effects due to usage of modern anticancer drugs or wish to try new therapies in the hope of getting better.

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.

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.

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.

