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Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Cancer detected in its early stages is completely curable.

A complete cure for all cancer is what every human being, especially Oncologists and patients aspire for.

Tireless research of thousands of dedicated men and women with many more thousands of patients who offer themselves to the trials of newer treatments is certainly bringing us closer and closer to eliminating cancer from the face of earth. We can only salute these amazing people and feel humbled by their dogged pursuit of achieving this goal. We offer treatment on the basis of evidence-based guidelines, which evolve continuously and most modern cancer hospitals are quick to adopt newer guidelines which improve patient outcomes.

In the midst of this, if our former cricketer credits Neem leaves, turmeric, lemon etc. as the 'magic cure' for his wife's stage 4 cancer in just 41 days, it amounts to belittling this Herculean effort of modern scientists. He being a national figure should have acted more responsibly. In his attempt to extol the 'magic cure' he fails to acknowledge the effort of a team of Oncologists who diagnosed and treated his wife successfully twice over. His press interaction will only give strength to those people who are diagnosed with cancer and choose to follow his advice, not realizing that their cancers will graduate to more advanced stages and deny them a chance of cure. His statements lack any scientific evidence to support his claims.

Modern science does not claim complete cure for all cancers but definitely gives the best chance of cure to those detected early. As practitioners of modern medicine, we have all the regard and respect for alternative medicines, but are also aware of the limitations of their science. We are completely aware of the fact that they have amazing solutions for various ailments, but the conviction will only grow with well conducted trails subjected to unbiased scientific scrutiny. Anecdotal evidence has no standing and can do more harm than good. Without evidence, claims like those made by our former cricketer, are extremely detrimental to the treatment of cancer patients and hugely disappointing.

Oncology Forum condemns and rejects such baseless recommendations.

Dr. SVS Deo

Dr. Geeta Kadayaprath

(President Oncology Forum)

(Vice President Oncology Forum)

Dr. Vineeta Goel

Dr. Kanika Sood Sharma

(Secretary Oncology Forum)

(Joint Secretary Oncology Forum)