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## 27 Percent Believe Cancer Cure Suppressed For Profit – Duh

**Editors Note:** This year 1,500,000 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and 750,000 will die – notwithstanding the best conventional cancer therapy. Cancer is big business, consuming an estimated \$250,000,000,000 (250 Billion) a year in the US alone. Every year more people get cancer. Every year more people die. And the cancer establishment claims we are making “progress against cancer.” The cancer establishment has a massive economic interest in the suppression of alternatives. Is it any wonder people are suspicious? Much of what passes for medical journalism in the articles below is as Mark Twain once said, “Lies, damn lies and statistics.”

**P** Surgery *can* cause cancer to spread.

**P** The medical establishment *is* suppressing treatments which have cured people.

**P** And the 87 percent who thought there were effective treatments for cancer haven't watched a friend or family member die a horrible death after toxic and ineffective treatments feared more than the disease itself.

**Editor, Frank D Wiewel, Founder, People Against Cancer**

### Survey: Many believe cancer myths

**WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- More than 40 percent of Americans surveyed in a study falsely believed surgery can allow cancer cells to spread through the body, researchers said Monday. And up to a quarter believed there is a drug industry plot to cover up a cure for cancer.**

The survey, published in the journal *Cancer*, may mean patients with cancer may fail to get treatment or may fail to stick with it, the researchers said.

The telephone survey of 957 adults was designed to represent the general U.S. population, said the researchers, led by Dr. Ted Gansler of the American Cancer Society.

"The most prevalent misconception, 'Treating cancer with surgery can cause it to spread throughout the body,' was endorsed as true by 41 percent of the respondents," the researchers wrote in their report.

"The second most prevalent misconception, 'The medical industry is withholding a cure for cancer from the public in order to increase profits,' was identified as true by 27 percent."

But most people -- 68 percent -- correctly rejected the idea that pain medications are ineffective against cancer pain and 89 percent knew it takes more than a positive attitude to treat cancer.



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Eighty-seven percent knew there were effective treatments for cancer. More than 60 percent of cancer patients are still alive 5 years later.

The results show that the American public is significantly ill-informed about cancer, and that most people overestimate how much they know about the disease, the researchers said.

Only 25 percent of those surveyed correctly identified all five misconceptions as false.

The survey fits in with others recently done about what people know about cancer.

People who were 65 or older, of non-white race and those who admitted they knew little about cancer were more likely to get the answers wrong, the researchers said.

**The findings may help explain why some groups are more likely to die of cancer than others, the researchers said. People who get early screening and prompt treatment for their cancer are more likely to survive.**

## **Fallacies - What Americans Don't Know About Cancer in 2005**

**NYTimes June 28, 2005 By NICHOLAS BAKALAR**

More than one-quarter of Americans in a recent survey believe that there is a cure for cancer, but that the health care industry is concealing it because treating cancer patients is profitable.

This and other widely held false beliefs are revealed in a study being published online today and in the Aug. 1 print issue of the journal *Cancer*.

In a scientifically designed survey of 957 adults who had no history of cancer, researchers asked whether respondents believed this and four other false statements about cancer.

The results led the authors to conclude that faulty impressions about cancer might lead people to make incorrect health care decisions and seriously harm themselves.

Seven percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "all you need to beat cancer is a positive attitude, not treatment," 41 percent believed that treating cancer with surgery could cause it to spread, 19 percent held that pain medications were ineffective for cancer patients and 7 percent said that cancer could not be treated effectively at all.

People with higher levels of education held fewer false beliefs, but Dr. Ted Gansler, the lead author of the study, emphasized that "all socioeconomic groups were affected to some extent."

Dr. Gansler is the director of medical content for the American Cancer Society.



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People in the West were more likely to believe in the curative power of a positive attitude. People living in the Northeast were more trusting of pain relief, and Midwesterners were the most optimistic that cancer could be treated successfully.

### **And the number one cancer myth is...**

Reuters Mon Jun 27, 1:39 PM ET

When US adults were polled about certain erroneous cancer 'myths', the most widely believed misconception was that surgical removal of a cancer can cause it to spread throughout the body.

The next most common misconception? A cure for cancer already exists but it is being withheld from the public in order to increase profits.

The new findings, which appear in the medical journal *Cancer*, come from a telephone survey of 957 randomly selected adults who reported never having been diagnosed with cancer.

Forty-one percent of subjects believed that surgery could, in fact, spread a malignancy to other regions of the body, lead author Dr. Ted Gansler, from the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, and colleagues note. Twenty-seven percent of the people surveyed thought there was a conspiracy to withhold a cure for cancer from public knowledge.

The third most common cancer myth was that there are no effective medications for cancer pain, endorsed by 19 percent of respondents.

The last two most common beliefs, each considered true by about 7 percent of respondents, were that a positive attitude alone can beat cancer and that there are no effective treatments for cancer.

"The prevalence of at least three of the five cancer misconceptions was unacceptably high, and varied by several sociodemographic factors," the investigators report. They found that these beliefs were most likely to be held by older people, those of non-white descent, people living in southern states, and those who admitted that they were ignorant about cancer.



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Having incorrect perceptions about cancer and its treatment can actually put people's lives in danger, the team points out. "These beliefs may increase the risk for cancer morbidity and mortality because of poor adherence to treatment regimens."

SOURCE: Cancer, online June 27, 2005