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THE RHEUMATOID DISEASE FOUNDATION

RT. 4, BOX 137, FRANKLIN, TN 37064 / (615) 646-1030

PERRY A. CHAPDELAIN, SR.
Executive Director/Secretary

Dear Sir or Ms.:

You are receiving this letter because you have been told that metronidazole (Flagyl) is cancer forming, and this misinformation may very well prevent you or one of your friends from being cured.

The *Physicians' Desk Reference* used as a guide by physicians states that metronidazole has shown evidence of carcinogenic activity in studies involving mice, but that similar studies in the hamster gave negative results. Also that while metronidazole has shown mutagenic activity in a number of *in vitro* studies (test tube), *in vivo* (in the body) studies failed to demonstrate a potential for genetic damage.

The *First United States Metronidazole Conference*, Proceedings from a Symposium at Tapon Springs, Florida, February 19-20, 1982 (Editor Sydney M. Finegold, M.D.: Biomedical Information Corporation, 800 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017: a free 389 page book) clearly shows that the use of metronidazole since 1967 has produced no reported cases of carcinogenic or mutagenic activity in humans. The uses described in this publication demonstrate that metronidazole is widely used for a large variety of disease conditions, and that it is applied by a variety of mechanisms, including intravenous use as an antibactericidal agent in hospitals, sometimes in larger dosages than recommended in our protocol.

Preclinical and Clinical Testing by the Pharmaceutical Industry, 1975 (Joint Hearings before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate, Ninety-Fourth Congress, in their first session, July 10, 11, 1975: a 1,315 page book printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975) on the "Examination on the Process of Drug Testing and FDA's Role in the Regulation and Conditions Under which Such Testing is Carried Out" was chaired by Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The testimony in Senator Kennedy's hearing clearly shows that the mouse that got cancer (reported on in the above *Physicians' Desk Reference*) was the mouse in the control group, *not the rodent receiving the metronidazole*.

This error has never been corrected in the *Physicians' Desk Reference*.

A talk by Wayne Martin of Fairhope, AL (given before the Seattle Chapter of the International Association of Cancer Victims and Friends) page 10, states that there is a study on Flagyl (metronidazole) and cancer:

"In the Seattle area the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound has treated 12,280 patients with Flagyl — mostly for the parasitic disease, trichomoniasis, which causes urogenital distress. Among these 12,280 patients there were only five patients who developed cancer over a 2-1/2 year period, whereas among 123,620 non-Flagyl users, 311 patients developed cancer over the same period of time. On a percentage basis, 0.04 percent of the Flagyl patients developed cancer, whereas 2.5 percent of the non-Flagyl users developed cancer — a score of better than 60 to one in favor of the Flagyl users. These doctors then put in a correction factor for age, and the score was still three to one in favor of Flagyl (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, May 14, 1982, pp. 2498, 2499). I think that Flagyl as an anti-cancer drug of enormous potential. Professor Wyburn-Mason recommended Flagyl or another anti-amoebic drug be taken every six months to prevent cancer. I have taken a course of Flagyl for that reason."

Finally, those who have discouraged your use of Flagyl for the false reason that it might cause cancer have thrown you a classical "red herring" for they do not also tell you that you can get well through the use of other anti-amoebics, including allopurinol, furazolidone, tinidazole, clotrimazole, and iodoquinol, but that perhaps the treatment recommendation of combining metronidazole and allopurinol, in the United States, is superior than any other combination.

Do not permit the ignorant and those who would not want you well, to scare you by misinformation and falsehoods.

If you need more information on the sources quoted above, feel free to write.

Cordially,

Perry A. Chapdelaine, Sr.

THE RHEUMATOID DISEASE FOUNDATION IS A PROJECT OF
THE ROGER WYBURN-MASON & JACK M. BLOUNT FOUNDATION
FOR THE ERADICATION OF RHEUMATOID DISEASE

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