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Salvestrols cancer treatment: Mum-cologists and the burger man

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Alternative 'commonsense' treatment for disease being funded by TV ad personality.



Annemarie Gallagher, with her son Joshua, 6, who is in remission from a brain tumour, is a believer in the product backed by "Kiwi Dave" Vousden. Photo / Christine Cornege

A group of New Zealand and Australian mothers of children with cancer are using an alternative treatment to stave off the disease.

The women, who call themselves "the mum-cologists", say the results are remarkable despite the product being unproven.

Known as Salvestrols, the capsules are supplied free to the children by the former face of fast food chain Wendy's - "Kiwi Dave" Vousden.

Mr Vousden, a manufacturing chemist who heads Salvacare Biotechnologies, said the treatment was based on common sense.

"Fresh food has always been the answer." But he does not promote the treatment, despite believing it has also had great results in adults with cancer - including himself.

"I had bladder cancer and had surgery and chemotherapy but after that I had a lesion on my kidney and my pancreas.

If it was gonna go I had about 20 weeks if I was lucky and that's when I started with Salvestrols."

That was four years ago and the lesion has disappeared.

The Cancer Society physical activity and nutrition health promotion adviser Barb Hegan said that while documented individual case studies had shown promise, there was not enough evidence to prove Salvestrols could treat or halt cancer.

"Some studies in the lab suggest their health benefits may be worth investigating further, but we don't really know if they treat cancers or not. We don't have enough well-designed clinical trials to say either way."

Mrs Hegan said she agreed with the Cancer Council Australia's stance on Salvestrols, which was not to dismiss them but to be cautious.

"People with cancer are often desperate and I don't want to be dismissive but we just don't know enough about it."

According to experts who began research into Salvestrols in the 1990s, documented in the *Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine* and the *British Naturopathic Journal*, they trigger a process in the body allowing it to kill diseased cells. But they have been depleted from food through modern farming and production techniques which have drastically altered diets.



"Kiwi Dave" Vousden.

"I'm not making a claim for Salvestrols; it's not a miracle cure," Mr Vousden said. "But if we had the food we had 100 years ago I don't think we'd have half the problems."

Mr Vousden used the money he made from Wendy's to support his research into the 20 children he is working with.

"The parents came to us because their children were sent home to die and we put them on fatty acid supplements and Salvestrols."

Annemarie Gallagher, a Rotorua mother of three, helped get 15 child patients on Salvestrols.

In 2012, her son Joshua was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour.

He underwent surgery and began taking Salvestrols, and the 6-year-old is still in remission.

A former intensive care nurse for 20 years, Mrs Gallagher said she truly believed that Salvestrols was saving lives. "Every family I have been involved with has had a positive response to Salvestrols, from a 5-year-old child with incurable brain cancer being cancer-free, to two children with recurrent aggressive brain cancer who are both still alive 18 months down the track."

Mrs Gallagher said the mum-cologists were on a mission to get Salvestrols officially recognised.

An Auckland District Health Board spokesman said Starship clinical director of paediatric oncology Dr Lochie Teague had not heard of Salvestrols and could not comment.

What are salvestrols?

Highly concentrated food parts.

Where are they found?

They are not made in the body but found in abundance in organic food.

How do they work?

They target a specific enzyme called CYP1B1, in diseased cells. Salvestrols trigger a process in the body allowing it to kill those cells. Thought to be more advanced than antioxidants which are ineffective once DNA damage occurs.

How are they made?

Salvestrols are extracted from organic and other foods in Germany and the UK and made into supplements. They have been depleted from most foods through years of modern farming and food-making techniques.

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