Canada's Heroic Nurse

The Cancer Support Formula from Rene Caisse Canada's Heroic Nurse

More than half of all cancer patients today will seek herbal remedies as part of their overall health support Program. Most patients use these as an adjunct to their doctor's prescribed regimen of surgery, chemotherapy or radiation. Perhaps the most famous and popular herbal remedy used today by cancer patients is Flor-Essence(& herbal tonic.

According to an in-depth report, in one three-month period beginning in June 1998, its manufacturer, Flora, of Lynden, Washington and Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, shipped some 65,245 units of product 'in the United States and 20,000 in Canada. Thday, it is estimated that some 40,000 units of Flor-Essence are sold monthly in the United States alone.

Many studies now support use of this herbal tea as an additive form of health support among cancer patients and for detoxification purposes. In fact, Flor-Essence is approved for use in cancer therapeutics in Mexico, and recent clinical trials conducted by the Russian Ministry of Health among victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident have led to its recommended use as a basic treatment for chronic non-healing lesions of the gastric mucosa. In a study done by the University of Tbxas Center for Alternative Medicine Research, among some 4,708 users of the product, over 72 percent found the results of the tea to be "very good" to "excellent, 11 and 44.1 percent of patients were found to have no evidence of cancer at their last check-up with another 14 percent showing regression of their cancer. in addition, Flora, the manufacturer, has received thousands of user reports from cancer patients who have experienced tremendous health benefits from Flor-Essence.

Cancer Tea of the ojibway Indians

For millennia, America's native cultures have utilized the healing power of herbs. One such example is a tea the Qjibway Indians of Cobal, Ontario, Canada, typically prepared from native herbs, particularly sheep sorrel, burdock mot, slippery elm and Turkish rhubarb; additional herbs, watercress, red clover, kelp, and blessed thistle, potentiate these primary ones.

But without the persistent, selfless efforts of Canada's cancer nurse, Rene Caisse, R.N., this herbal formula might never have reached the vast number of users that it has today.
Caisse tells in her own words: "In the mid-twenties I was head nurse at the Sisters of Providence Hospital in a northern Ontario town. One day one of my nurses was bathing an elderly lady patient. I noticed that one breast was a mass of scar tissue, and asked about it.

"I came out from England nearly 30 years ago,, she told me. 'I joined my husband, who was prospecting in the wilds of Northern Ontario. My right breast became sore and swollen, and very painful. My husband brought me to Tbronto, and the doctors told me I had advanced cancer and my breast must be removed at once. Before we left camp a very old Indian medicine man had told me I had cancer, but he could cure it. I decided I'd just as soon try his remedy as to have my breast removed. one of my friends had died from breast surgery. Besides we had no money!

"She and her husband returned to the mining camp, and the old Indian showed her certain herbs growing in the area, told her to make a tea from these herbs, and to drink it every day. She was nearly 80 years old when I saw her, and there had been no recurrence of cancer.

"I was much interested," Rene Caisse said years later, 'and wrote down the names of the herbs she had used....

"A few months later, I received word that my mother's only sister had been operated on in Brockville, Ontario. The doctors had found she had cancer of the stomach with a liver involvement, and gave her, at the most, six months to live. I hastened to her, and talked to her doctor. He was Dr R.O. Fisher of Toronto, whom I knew well, for I'd nursed patients for him many times. I told him about the herb tea and asked his permission to try it under his observation, since there apparently was nothing more medical science could do for my aunt. He consented quickly. I obtained the necessary herbs, with some difficulty, and made the tea. My aunt lived for another 21 years, after being given up by the medical profession. There was no recurrence of cancer."

Dr. Fisher was so impressed that he asked Rene to use her treatment on some of his other hopeless cancer cases. Other doctors heard about Rene from Dr. Fisher, and asked her to treat patients for them after everything medical science had to offer had been used and failed. They, too, were impressed with the results.

Yet, in spite of strong support from members of the medical profession who had seen their own patients improve with the herbal tea, Canadian medical authorities alternatively tolerated and persecuted Rene, nearly arresting her twice.

In March 1938, a private bill to authorize Rene to practice medicine in Ontario in the treatment of cancer was introduced to the legislature. The rules of the House were suspended to allow this private bill to be presented without customary notice, and the debate before the Private Bills Committee was fierce. A petition signed by 55,000 citizens (many of whom were doctors) accompanied the bill. Unfortunately, legislation that would’ve provided legal support for her to continue to help cancer patients failed to pass by a mere three votes. In 1942, Rene halted her work for fear of persecution.

Kennedy Physician Supports Herbal Tea
The story might have ended there if not for the efforts of Ralph Daigh, vice president and editorial director of Fawcett Publications in New York. In 1959, he was given a mysterious cachet of scientific papers pertaining to Rene's tea that had become known by now as essiac (Caisse spelled backward). The mysterious fellow who gave Daigh the papers told him that, as the publisher of some of America’s leading magazines, he could help to introduce this important cancer support formula to millions who needed it desperately.

Daigh introduced Rene to doctors at the Brusch Medical Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
There, under the supervision of 18 doctors, she began a series of treatments on terminal cancer patients. Her mentor there was Dr. Charles Brusch, a highly respected physician who, in 1955, administered the first polio vaccine in Cambridge. For many years, Dr Brusch treated John F Kennedy, including specifically for his Addison's disease. Dr. Brusch was very much interested in traditional healing and took a great interest in the ancient tonic.

Among those who received her tea:
A 58-year-old man named Wilbur Dymond was suffering from prostate cancer. After two months of treatments, all hardness in the prostate had vanished, except for one small nodule. He reported to doctors that he no longer suffered excruciating pain during urination.

Russell McCassey was suffering from a basal cell carcinoma of the right cheek, proven by biopsy. The open lesion had been present for months. He had not had X-ray or radiation treatments. After four treatments with the Flor-Essence formula, the color of the lesion changed from red to pale pink. The lesion reduced in size. The central ulcer crater was disappearing. After three more weeks of treatments, the lesion was healed, leaving only a small white mark where the biopsy incision was made. The file notes that this case appeared to be cured.

Her supervisor at the medical clinic wrote, "After having personally observed Miss Caisse administer her remedy for cancer on known cases of malignancy for about three months, and the results of such administration, I am certain the remedy is efficacious. It is to be regretted that the patient sample is so small, although small as the sample was, her gratifying results on all cases are indisputable. The sense of well being engendered in the patients is heartening and easily noticed.... The relief from pain is possibly the most dramatic change. In those cases of cutaneous cancer the evidence of quick healing and regeneration [is] visible and positive."

Passing Hope to a New Generation Although Rene passed away at age 91 in 1978, her formula, refined and improved for optimal results, was not lost. She had made a friend and believer out of Dr. Brusch. They remained on good terms, in communication and cooperating with each other about the future of essiac for the rest of Rene's life, according to her biographer. In November 1988, in the twilight of his life, Dr. Brusch legally granted the worldwide, exclusive rights for the manufacture and distribution of the herbal products worked on at his clinic to longtime radio producer and broadcaster Elaine Alexander. A passionate supporter of the herbal tonic, Alexander had done many radio shows over the years with the physician; these elicited an enormous audience response, particularly among cancer patients.

Finally, following a tremendous response to an investigative article in the Vancouver Sun that led to thousands upon thousands of requests for the tea, Alexander selected Flora, a company with a long and proud tradition of natural health dating back to 1916, to manufacture the formula.

Today, Flor-Essence is clearly the most popular of all of the so-called essiac formulas. According to the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health study, Flor-Essence is one of "the most widely used herbal tonics by cancer patients."

It is important to keep in mind that preparations such as the Ojibway tea (essiac) were handed down from generation to generation for millennia through the oral tradition - if the tea hadn't been efficacious, it would have disappeared. We are fortunate that Rene Caisse saw something in this formula, used it with thousands of cancer patients, and developed her relationship with Dr. Brusch. 'Ibday, its use is undeniably important to cancer patients, many of whom report that their condition has improved remarkably with the healthy addition of Flor-Essence to their regimen.

Herbs in Flor-Essence
According to a February 2000 issue of Phytotherapy Research, “Individual case reports suggest that the tea improves quality of life, alleviates pain, and in some cases, impacts cancer progression among cancer patients. Experimental studies with individual herbs have shown evidence of biological activity including antioxidant, antiestrogenic, immunostimulant, antitumor, and antiocholeretic actions.”

**Burdock Root (Arctium lappa)** Used to cleanse and detoxify.

**Slippery Elm (Ulmus rubra Muhl)** Has soothing qualities with large amounts of mucilage for inflammatory conditions.

**Turkish Rhubarb (Rheum palmatum)**-Used to promote healthy elimination processes.

**Blessed Thistle (Cnicus benedictus)**-Both British and German, pharmacopoeias note that 'bitters' such as blessed thistle stimulate bile flow and cleanse the liver.

**Red Clover (Trifolium pratense)** This herb has profound benefits in supporting cancer patients and has shown evidence of preventing cancer cell migration.

**Kelp (Laminaria digicata)** Rich in immune supportive polysaccharides and algin, this herb greatly aids in cletoxification and cancer health support.

**Watercress (Nanurtium officinale)** A member of the Brassicaceae family (including cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, kale, mustard greens, collard greens, bok choy and turnips), watercress contains specific indoles that activate enzymes in the body that deactivate and dispose of excess estrogen and other toxins, thereby reducing the risk of serious diseases.

**Sheep sorrel (Runm acetosella)** At least ten Native tribes of Canada and the United States have used this herb, also known as sour grass or sour weed, as a food and medicine, notes herbal expert Suzanne Diamond, B.Sc., M.Sc. Botany. "Sheep sorrel is a popular ingredient of many folk remedies and the tea was used traditionally as a diuretic and to treat fevers, inflammation and scurvy." in Flor6 Essence, sheep sorrel is considered the most active herb for stimulating cellular regeneration, cletoxification and cleansing, based on reports by Rene Caisse and her doctor colleague who did studies with mice bearing abnormal growths on the original eight herb formula.

**Prescription for Using Flor-Essence**

Flor-Essence is an important formula to be used by cancer patients as a means of health support. Because it is both a detoxifier and purifier, it is especially important to patients who are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Work with your physician and use this product to enhance your prescribed regimen’s results. It should also be used routinely as a means of cletoxifying and reducing risk of serious cell conditions.

**Flor-Essence** can be purchased ready-made or be prepared at home. Take on its own or as a tea by diluting the amount listed below with an equal or double amount of hot or cold water.

**Dosage**-Adults should consume two ounces of Flor-Essence twice daily. Children should consume one ounce, twice daily. Take on an empty stomach, about thirty minutes before any meal, and at bedtime. Use spring or distilled water when preparing. Sip slowly.

**REFERENCES**


-Healthy Living volume 7, number 8