



# Newsletter

CANCER CONSULTANTS OF AMERICA

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CANCER AND UNDERSTANDING®

## Cancer Answers Cultural Views on Cancer

Living in a developed society, it is easy to believe that the viewpoint on cancer is universal across every culture and the collective view puts cancer in a negative light. Additionally, there is a shared mindset that nobody wishes to experience a cancer journey, whether personally or at a distance. However, living on a planet inhabited by 8.2 billion people (2024), the cultural diversity across the globe is vast and these cultures have many different views of cancer. In this issue of Cancer Answers, we explore the many different viewpoints on cancer and the impact it has in certain cultures.

For many people, a cancer diagnosis is met with a fatalistic view insomuch that a loved one will soon be taken from the family. In a sense, this is a selfish perspective due to the fact that people want to keep their loved one in their life for as long as possible, although we live in a less-than-perfect world. When cancer removes a loved one from our earthly realm, comfort is typically provided for the bereaved with the thoughts that the person is no longer suffering and experiencing an existence in the divine realm such as Heaven, Gan Eden, Jannah, Elysium, and Nirvana, to name a few. A less common perspective on cancer revolves around an unselfish mindset. From this viewpoint, cancer is perceived more optimistically because it provides a person with the opportunity to depart from this earthly setting and experience a better existence elsewhere. In a sense, cancer is an "express pass" to the divine. While the fatalistic and optimistic views are diametrically different regarding an earthly life, both share a common endpoint of placing the loved one in a better existence following this earthly life as we know it.

Culturally speaking, the many views on cancer take into account several elements that include community perspectives, interpretations of spirit guides, and communication with healthcare leaders. In first-world societies, the decision of how to handle a cancer diagnosis is usually given to the individual who receives the diagnosis. However, in similarly equal societies, the decisions are made by a group of community leaders for the good of the community because the afflicted person is part of a larger community and serves a purpose to those who depend on the person. Other cultures view cancer as the manifestation of an energy imbalance within the person and efforts are made to correct the energy distribution within the body. Alternatively, some cultures perceive the energy imbalance to exist in the surrounding

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environment and the focus is placed on correcting the energy within the environment in an effort to preserve the community as a whole. Communicating about health and well-being is also viewed very differently across cultures. In some settings, a cancer diagnosis carries with it a stigma that is not welcomed. This leads to secrecy and limited communication which can have a negative impact on treatment options and support that would otherwise be provided if the diagnosis was freely communicated. In addition, a person with cancer might suffer from the fear of being shunned by their community. They may also experience anxiety by questioning if they have a "duty to warn" fellow members of the family in the event the cancer developed as a result of genetic inheritance. While a cancer diagnosis has a personal impact, it also comes with a much broader implication depending on the culture.

It is evident, in our world with so many people, that cancer does not discriminate. As humans, we commonly accept the existence of cancer in our lives because it touches all of us at some capacity. Although cancer has such a grip on humanity, how we view cancer's impact varies greatly across the cultures of the world. We are fortunate to live in a world of diversity that provides us with many viewpoints allowing us to choose a perspective that is best for us.

Submit your **Cancer Answers** topics to [info@CancerConsultantsOfAmerica.com](mailto:info@CancerConsultantsOfAmerica.com)

### We Are Available to You

Please contact us today if you would like more information about how our services can benefit you and your family.

#### Services:

- Individual and Family Cancer Education
- Medical Appointment Liaison Services
- Information Seminars and Public Speaking Events

### Fun Facts – December

#### Cancer Awareness Month:

- Hope (no color designation)

December 4 – National Cookie Day 🍪

December 5 – International Ninja Day 🥷

December 13 – National Cocoa Day ☕

December 21 – Twin Day 👯

December 28 – National Bacon Day 🥓


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