

**INQUIRY INTO OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF
CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW**

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Parliamentary Chemotherapy Inquiry Dr. Kirin Phadke

In late January 2013 I was diagnosed by Dr. Kirin Phadke with Stage 3b Follicular Non Hodgkins Lymphoma.

I was in a terrible state and was admitted into Sutherland Hospital for 11 days.

The R-CHOP regime ordered by Dr Phadke was commenced on Friday the day after my admission, however the Rituximab could not be administered until the following Monday. I had an extreme Anaphylactic reaction to the Rituximab and was in ICU for three days at Dr. Phadke's instruction until my condition stabilized.

After 5 CHOP treatments, scans revealed that the CHOP had not totally shrunk the tumours, so Dr. Phadke put me on a regime of ICE. This effectively wiped out the rest of my tumours.

In October of 2013 Dr Phadke sent to St. George hospital for desensitizing so that I could have the Rituximab. This procedure was performed over two days. Dr Phadke felt that without having the Rituximab my treatment would not ultimately be successful.

I then had a series of Rituximab every 8 weeks for most of 2014.

At all times Dr. Phadke kept me fully informed about my treatment and the various options. We always discussed further treatments should they ever be needed. We even discussed bone marrow transfusions from my brothers if needed.

I don't believe in my case Dr. Phadke ever did anything wrong. I am alive, and it is due to his support, advice, reassurances and professionalism, and I am still monitored every three months.

During my treatment Dr Phadke told me many times that I would never be cured, but that the treatment he instituted would keep the tumours dormant for quite a few years. Due to my age and the severity of the treatment I had undergone, Dr. Phadke told me that I would suffer from the after effects of the treatment for the rest of my life.

At all times Dr Phadke was open and honest. He never sugar coated anything, he answered all our questions concisely and clearly in terms we could understand. He told me on numerous occasions in the early days that I could seek another opinion and Oncologist should I want to. My trust in him is absolute.

Pity the same cannot be said about the NSW Health Department.

How dare a trusted Oncologist be treated in such a shameless manner? Trial by media on the 7:00pm news is purely evil, and should never have occurred. It looked exactly like the Labour PM and ASADA standing up talking about drug

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taking in the AFL & NRL – it took them over 2 years to actually get enough evidence to make charges stick – during which time many fine reputations were destroyed.

The evidence as to Dr. Phadke's right or wrong doing is surely simple to get:

1. Is the mortality rate of his patients equal to, less than or greater than the National average,
2. Is the repeat rate for his patients equal to, less than or greater than the National average.

Surely the NSW Health Department has enough clinical records to prove or disprove these two basic questions.

As to this enquiry I have main concerns:

1. How can a group of Politicians really understand what the Clinicians were presented with at the time a cancer patient presented to them?
2. How can a group of so-called "experts" really know all the facts after the fact? Again, they cannot know exactly what the Oncologist was presented with?
3. By the very nature of a Doctors work, they have to make choices, and they do every day – a protocol is a protocol, but it is not law. When you take away a Doctor's ability to take the whole situation into account we may as well get rid of them all, and just have nurses and computers treat us.

As for NSW Health I have lost my respect for them. On the news we were told that either the Department or the treating hospital would be reviewing our cases and would be in contact.

I have heard nothing from anyone – shame on you all.

I would be more than willing to stand before the inquiry and tell my story.

As for Dr. Phadke, he is my hero – he saved my life.

And, while all this political grandstanding goes on he is being prevented from saving even more lives.

Regards,

Gary Challinor