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Initial use of metronomic chemotherapy for stage IIIc colon cancer in 1995-1997

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This is a personal case report from a cancer researcher who 23 years ago chose a previously untested therapy rather than conventional adjuvant chemotherapy for recently diagnosed stage IIIc colon cancer. Metronomic chemotherapy, as this therapy is now called, is frequently discussed and is the subject of scientific investigation but has not yet been tested as researcher-patient used it those decades ago. The concern most expressed is that while it works, the mechanism is not understood. I can't explain exactly why it works but I can describe why I made the choice to use it on scientific grounds and why I would likely do something similar if diagnosed today. An important reference is Retsky, M., Swartzendruber, D., Wardwell, R., Bame, P. Computer model challenges breast

cancer treatment strategy. *Cancer Investigation*, 12(6): 559-567, 1994. This paper was published shortly before I was diagnosed and describes my thinking at that time. It is freely available online at my DASH account at Harvard.

Speaker Biography

Michael Retsky (PhD in Physics from University of Chicago 1974) made a career change to cancer research thirty years ago. He was on Judah Folkman's staff at Harvard Medical School for 12 years. Retsky is Editor of a Springer-Nature book on breast cancer that was published in 2017 (Retsky M and Demicheli R, editors, *Perioperative Inflammation as Triggering Origin of Metastasis Development*). He is a founder and was for 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Colon Cancer Alliance. He has published more than 60 papers in physics and cancer. He has been Editor in Chief of two journals in cancer.

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