

Integrative Oncologic Practices and the Affects of Mesothelioma on Women

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These days, the treatment of cancer of any sort is not automatically limited to traditional therapies such as radiation and chemotherapy. More and more, patients are seeking alternative ways to address not only the cancer itself but also the symptoms of the disease and the side effects associated with the aforementioned traditional therapies, some of which can be quite debilitating.

For those with asbestos-related cancer, there is an ever-growing list of [alternative mesothelioma therapy](#) options available. Generally speaking, these therapies are not endorsed by most medical doctors, but many of these physicians are beginning to realize the advantages of these therapies and, in addition, some well-known cancer hospitals are even offering on-site facilities at which patients can take advantage of these alternative options, which include:

- Acupuncture – Used by many cancer patients, including those with [mesothelioma](#), this is an ancient Chinese method for relieving pain that involves the insertion of long, thin needles at certain points on the body.
- Massage – Many cancer patients find that massage not only relieves pain but also lessens the stress and anxiety associated with battling the disease. Patients should always tell the massage therapist that they have cancer so as to avoid any harmful manipulations.
- TENS Therapy – Approved by the FDA, this treatment involves an electrical current that is said to stimulate the production of a morphine-like substance in the brain, hence reducing pain.
- Meditation – Known to relieve stress, it has been speculated that meditation may also enhance the body's immune system. Once a patient learns to meditate, they can call upon that skill at any time without the help of a practitioner.
- Supplements – Many mesothelioma patients choose to enhance their diet with certain herbs or supplements that may enhance the immune system or slow the progression of cancer. Though they are not FDA-approved, patients have noted marked improvement with certain supplements.

Both men and women can develop mesothelioma and either sex can take advantage of these options. Women, however, tend to be more susceptible to malignant peritoneal mesothelioma than men, causing them to be candidates for different treatments. One

theory questions whether this is a reality or if [peritoneal mesothelioma](#) is misdiagnosed among women because ovarian cancer and malignant peritoneal mesothelioma derive from the same tissue.

Nevertheless, more and more cases of mesothelioma among women are being reported, prompting them to seek treatment from experts like [Dr. Hedy Lee Kindler](#), director of the Mesothelioma Group at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Reports show that women who have the disease, unlike men, are most likely to have developed it due to secondary exposure, including living with a relative who worked with asbestos. However, some women may also suffer from the disease due to primary exposure caused, for example, by work in the military, jobs in a cosmetic factory, or work in laundry facilities that once used industrial dryers that contained asbestos.

For more information about alternative therapies and the benefits for cancer patients, or to learn more about how mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases affect women, please visit [Mesothelioma.com](#).