



Gastroparesis in Comparison to Cancer

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As someone living with Gastroparesis, a chronic illness that has increasingly become life threatening, I have the utmost respect for others who live with chronic diseases such as cancer. Like many others, I have known people in my life who have endured, fought, and even died from some form of cancer. There are still many types of cancer that not enough is known. There is an enormous lack of compassion and resources for too many who are surviving with cancer. The fight for protection and resources continually goes on in the background. There is a tremendous lack of compassion and understanding from the medical community and local communities that make life exceptionally difficult for people who are fighting chronic and terminal illnesses. Everyone deserves the Right to Life. I see how millions of lives are negatively affected every day due to ignorance. Even in the United States, there is no equal Right to Life. Too many incredible people have died due to ignorance.

Gastroparesis is a life threatening digestive illness that has no cure. All illnesses that threaten our lives and have no cures are chronic, many debilitating, and the most often misunderstood. Using cancer as an example, there are certain cancers that do not have cures and can go on for years, and certain cancers that do have cures. The cancers that do not have cures are chronic, life threatening in many ways, and may become terminal. It does not matter how long of a life span a specific cancer is projected to have in order to determine if it is chronic and could become terminal, quality of life is diminished and affects everyone whose lives are touched by those who are sick. If there is no cure, regardless of how long a person has to fight to live with any illness, everyone should be treated with respect and considered to be an expert on their own bodies and how they are feeling. Living with Gastroparesis is a life sentence with no specific time frame, and no cure. Each person is different. The pain, nausea, weakness, and all else that goes along with Gastroparesis is very real. R.I.P. to all of the wonderful people we have lost along the way. It is very important to all of us that our GP Angels are acknowledged.

A day in the life of every GPer is similar and different. No two people are identical. After speaking with people who are almost identical in symptoms, I have found that one person may not be able to tolerate the same foods as another. Food tolerances and allergies vary with each person. Some people may not be able to tolerate certain physical activity others can endure.



Physical activity seems to trigger more symptoms, but also necessary in order to survive. GP can have an emotional drain as well. While we all handle life's hardships differently, living with torture where there is no escape will eventually break you down. Whether we choose to get back up or not, is a choice that each one of us has to make. After a while, not everyone has the strength to get back up. Many fellow GPer's have died. Gastroparesis can bring you down to barely existing, or plague you with chronic torture while you push through to stay alive and functioning. The ability to build an endurance and tolerance to pain, weakness, overwhelming nausea, vomiting, and other organ issues, is imperative to staying on your feet and making yourself look well enough to get through a day. Trying to look better than we feel is one of the many ways we help ourselves get through such a torturous life. Laughter is another.

Getting knocked down from Gastroparesis is a bit like getting knocked down from a viscous flu or food poisoning that renders your body helpless, leaving you unable to get through the simple task of getting a glass of water, with a dose of extreme pain added in. For many, GP creates a severe and debilitating pain that is impossible to escape. There are mild, moderate, and severe degrees of this illness. While all of this is horrible to live with and live through, many of us have learned to do so much of what we need to do in our lives with a smile or a joke. Do people break down from the exhaustion and frustration of surviving with this devastating disease? Absolutely, who would not eventually break down to relieve frustration, let it go to live and fight another day?

Gastroparesis is an illness that is not going away any time soon. Instead, it is progressive, may affect other organs causing additional health issues, has no cure, and can result in death. Gastroparesis is a name important to remember, a gastric motility illness everyone should read about to understand. Eating a certain way, living a certain way, is very important when living with this illness. Find out more online at <http://www.GastroparesisAndME.com>
Email: ContactUs@GastroparesisAndME.com

The "ME" in Gastroparesis and ME means "EVERYONE". Until we are diagnosed, so many of us feel like, "Is this just me?"

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