



Mansion House Chambers, 22 High Street, Stockport, SK1 1EG Tel: 0161 474 8222

Email info@prostatecancersupport.org

Reg. Charity No. 1123373



May 14, 2012

Dear Jeremy

On behalf of the Prostate Cancer Support Federation, I am writing to express my dismay about the decision by NICE to refuse Abiraterone for men with failed chemotherapy for prostate cancer.

Having personal experience of this drug, I can testify to its very positive effect.

When my chemotherapy failed in June 2011, my psa was 0.4. It began doubling every month and I was getting pain in my pelvic area and in my legs. On December 13th 2011, it stood at 25.6 and I realised I was in trouble. After just four weeks on Abiraterone, on January 13th 2012, my psa had dropped to 1.4 and I feel terrific. Two months ago, I was having in difficulty walking upstairs and attending the NICE meeting on January 5th would have been very difficult. Now, I'm fit and well and looking forward to resuming my two hobbies, dingy sailing and hill walking. Something I haven't been able to do for over two years. Nothing short of miraculous!

It must be stressed that Abiraterone is not just about giving someone a few more precious months of life with their loved ones, but it's affect can be long lasting and truly life changing. It has the potential to give a man back his life and keep him in full employment, looking after his family, instead of claiming benefits to keep them. That is a huge and important improvement in quality of life, especially when we are going to have to work until we are 70 years old in the not too distant future.

Abiraterone is very easily administered, just four tablets per day and very well tolerated. In the vast number of cases, the side affects are no worse than those of hormone treatment, which is something anyone who needs this drug, will be well used to. Indeed, by now, I don't even consider these to be side affects at all.

It has to be said that 10,000+ men die every year of prostate cancer and NICE having just refused Cabazitaxel, this is the only EoL treatment being considered. In the light of your judgment, one has to wonder whether it is your intention to hope that we are all going to die with as little fuss as possible.

Just to underline the importance and success of Abiraterone, the gentleman who was supposed to be the Prostate Cancer Support Federation representative to the NICE committee, Mike Lockett, was refused this drug and died before the consultation could take place. I stepped into his shoes and fortunately for me, I was given Abiraterone and look forward to many more years of quality life.





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