

**MYÉLOME
CANADA**



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Uniquely devoted to the Canadian myeloma community

Give Me My Drug - Patient's Response to "Canadians Smuggle in Cheaper Thalidomide"

National Post, May 9, 2009

This article illustrates the extreme actions that cancer patients are taking in order to access the treatment they need. Those of us diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma--a rare cancer -- have few treatment options and accessibility to those options is dependent on the decision of a provincial or territorial government.

Our publicly funded health care system is widely thought to provide care and treatment for all, especially in the event of catastrophic illness. Not so. There is a new drug, Revlimid, which is the most-effective treatment for Multiple Myeloma. It provides a good quality of life and makes this incurable disease very treatable. In short, it is a miracle drug.

While Revlimid has been approved by Health Canada, it is of little use if patients cannot access the drug for treatment. In desperation patients will turn to unapproved and possibly unsafe treatment alternatives, as this article describes.

Why is it that some patients have full access to effective treatments for their cancer while others do not? Multiple Myeloma patients deserve the same opportunities as other patients. We need access to Revlimid.

Carolyn Henry, London, Ont.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/todays-paper/story.html?id=1580250>