

The Mind and Cancer

Week 2: Pre-Module Discussion

Part 1: Discussion

Discuss these questions with your partner or group.



- Do you have a public health care system in your country? Describe it.
- What do you think are the most dangerous diseases and illnesses in the world today?
- What are doctors doing to try to cure these diseases and illnesses?
- Do you think that the mind is capable of causing or curing disease? Give reasons to support your view.
- What do you do when you get sick with the cold or the flu? Is there anything special you do to make yourself feel better?
- When you get sick do you use normal medicines like antibiotics or do you use traditional medicines like herbs? Have you tried any alternative medicines like acupuncture or massage?
- Name some types of medicine/healing that make use of psychological factors to prevent or cure disease.
- In conducting medical research, doctors often administer real medicine to only half of the experimental group. They give a placebo (harmless substitute) to the other half. What is the reason for this? What does this say about the role of belief in curing illness. Can you give other examples of the power of "mind over matter"?
- Do you think mobile phones can cause cancer? Why or why not?
- Do you think a country like America that has more fast food restaurants will have more health problems in the future? Why or why not?
- Some people say that as smokers know the health risks and continue to smoke they should have to pay all their medical expenses if they get cancer later in life. What do you think?
- Some diseases like breast cancer or heart disease can be seen in many generations of a family. Do you think genetic engineering will cure these diseases in the future?



Part 2: Vocabulary

1. Here are some of the key words you will hear in the lecture. Read them in context and discuss the possible meaning of each word with a partner

1. traumatic	traumatic life event
2. acrimonious	acrimonious marital breakdown
3. subscribe	subscribe to a theory
4. compromise	compromise the immune system
5. malignant	malignant cancer cells
6. proliferate	allows malignant cells to proliferate
7. deregulation	deregulation of the immune system
8. rehabilitate	a rehabilitated immune system
9. support group	attended a weekly support group
10. clinical trial	evaluated in a clinical trial
11. inconsistency	inconsistency of the findings
12. replicate	replicate a study
13. melanoma	malignant melanoma
14. diagnosis	a diagnosis of cancer
15. subsequent	in the subsequent six-year period
16. relapse	a higher risk of relapse

Now match the words above to the list of meanings below:

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| A. bitter, very angry | I. meeting of people who share a common problem and try to help each other |
| B. breakdown, destabilisation | J. multiply, increase in number |
| C. difference in the results | K. repeat |
| D. distressing, very upsetting | L. restore to the original condition |
| E. early sign of skin cancer | M. return to poor health |
| F. following, later | N. serious, life-threatening |
| G. give support | O. study of medical treatment using patients |
| H. identification of a disease/problem after examination | P. weaken |

2. Here are some of the key words you will see in the reading.

Find the following words in the text. Underline them. Look closely at the **CONTEXT** of each word, and then match it with a possible definition. (Resist the urge to use your dictionary!)

1. intricate (Paragraph 1)	A. totally dominate, disregard X
2. proponents (P3)	B. obvious, instantly noticed
3. emeritus (P4)	C. cannot be explained
4. walk all over (P7)	D. of the heart
5. cholesterol (P8)	E. the immediate cause of something
6. discount (P9)	F. complicated, difficult to follow
7. striking (P9)	G. those proposing or supporting X
8. trigger (P12)	H. fatty substance found in blood
9. cardiac (P18)	I. retired from service, but keeping an honorary title.
10. inexplicable (P21)	J. rule out, ignore