

## “I AM NOT A STATISTIC. I AM A MAN!”

4/2/08 Care To Live intends to bring you a weekly plea from patients, physicians or families of patients, who suffer from advanced prostate cancer, until the FDA acts in a humane manner: This week's letter is from cancer patient Ted Girgus.

Dear Friends,

My name is Ted Girgus. I have end stage prostate cancer that is becoming hormone refractory. Don't let the FDA treat me like a statistic.

I am a 64-year-old man who has been fighting this disease for 10 years. I have a wonderful wife who has been at my side the entire time. I worry because I have four sons and genetically speaking, they have a very high probability of contracting this dreaded disease.

The FDA has decided that I am not a real person. They treat me like a statistic. One of 30,000 “statistics” that die every year from prostate cancer. We die a horrible death.

We know the Provenge story, we know the conflicts of interests associated with at least two members of the Advisory Committee ...

**FDA AC VOTED  
17-0 SAFE  
13-4 EFFICACIOUS**

NOW we have to make every lawmaker and citizen know about them.

Should I die before Provenge is approved, I leave you with this simple plea: don't let my sons die this way as well. Let them live in a world where people who see injustice stand up and say: “no more.”

Make the FDA explain why thousands of

men of all backgrounds have to die while they wait for more statistics. After all, the Provenge Advisory Committee voted 17-0 that Provenge was safe and 13-4 that it demonstrated “substantial efficacy,” the federally mandated standard.



My PSA levels terrifyingly have been going up for the last 7 months. My oncologist now has put me on pain killers, (oxycodone) and has added a second hormone blocker to my treatment. He

also restarted my monthly infusions, but must monitor my kidneys carefully because the Zometa infusions destroy kidney function. I have suffered memory loss, constant pain, incontinence and chemical castration. Compare this to the mild flu-like side effects from 3 infusions of Provenge over 30 days.

Give Provenge the “Approval” it should have received. Let men like me have an opportunity to receive this new treatment. I will not take chemotherapy and steroids. The side effects of chemo are horrendous and have proved to be of little or no value to prostate cancer patients. Why add to my agony?

If we must die, let us die with dignity. God Bless You All.

Sincerely,  
Ted Girgus

Since the FDA denied approval to Provenge, 26,000 men have died from advanced prostate cancer without access to this life-extending drug. Although an FDA Advisory Committee of 17 experts found Provenge to be safe, and 13 experts found that there was substantial evidence of efficacy, the FDA denied approval to Provenge, leaving these dying men with no good alternative.

On July 27, 2007, CareToLive filed a Citizens Petition that asked the FDA to reconsider their wrongful decision to deny these patients access to Provenge. Under U.S.

CareToLive is a not for profit corporation

“This is OUR FDA. We need to take it back from certain FDA individuals with their own ambitions.” See you next week.

**FDA Approve Provenge Now!**

More on this sordid affair at

[www.CareToLive.com](http://www.CareToLive.com)