medicine-today.net

An anonymously run website that promotes alternative medicine and has published false and misleading claims about cancer treatments.

Ownership and Financing

Medicine-Today.net does not disclose who owns the site. Information about the domain name registrant is masked by a Panama-based privacy service.

The site carries advertisements.

Content

The site’s content focuses on health care topics, particularly alternative medicine treatments and the pharmaceutical industry. Sections on the site include Health, Medical News, Nutrition & Diet, Alternative Medicine, and Cannabis. The site also has a section titled Coronavirus dedicated to stories about the 2020 outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Typical headlines include “Never feel depressed again – how to boost your dopamine levels in a natural way.” “Is coffee harmful to your health?” “13 little known facts about coffee.” and “Psychologists Tell Mothers: Take A Break, Go On Mom-Cations. Here’s Why.”

Credibility

Medicine-Today.net has repeatedly published false and unsubstantiated health claims, including a conspiracy theory about the origin of the COVID-19 virus in early 2020. A January 2020 article, republished from TheMindUnleashed.com and headlined “Biola’s Most Dangerous Pathogens on Earth” opened in Wuhan Before Outbreak,” suggested that a laboratory run by the Chinese government may have been the source of the outbreak. “One very strange coincidence in the development of this outbreak is the fact that a new biolab, tasked with studying the most dangerous pathogens on earth, recently began operating in Wuhan, where the illness is said to have originated.”

While it is true that the Wuhan Institute of Virology works with dangerous pathogens, there is no evidence backing the suggestion that the new strain of coronavirus came from that lab. A February 2020 study published in the journal Nature found that the virus is “99% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

Medicine-Today.net articles have also promoted the unsubstantiated claim that cannabis can cure cancer. A December 2018 article, “US Government Admitted Cannabis Cures Cancer: 100 More Studies to Prove it,” based its misleading headline on a 2014 study that was first published in the Journal Molecular Cancer Therapeutics. The study found tumor volumes were reduced when cannabis extracts were used along with radiation treatments, but did not reach the conclusion that products derived from cannabis would be an effective cancer treatment on their own.

The U.S. National Institute of Drug Abuse, referring to the study in a page on its website, also did not reach the conclusion that the study proves cannabis can cure cancer. “Evidence from one cell culture study suggests that purified extracts from whole-plant marijuana can slow the growth of cancer cells from one of the most serious types of brain tumors,” the institute wrote.

And while a 2017 review of existing scientific evidence on the health effects of marijuana, published by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, found that cannabis products can help alleviate the side effects of chemotherapy, the review found, “there is insufficient evidence to support or refute the conclusion that cannabinoids are an effective treatment for cancers.”

Other articles have misrepresented research to promote false claims about medical treatment.

For example, a November 2018 article titled “Landmark Study Shows Half of Cancer Patients are Killed by Chemo — NOT Cancer” claimed two September 2016 studies, conducted by Public Health England and
Cancer Research U.K., showed “up to 50 percent of patients are killed by the drugs — not the disease, itself.”

The article mistates both the intent and the results of the research, which examined how many breast and lung cancer patients died within 30 days of receiving chemotherapy in British hospitals.

The study overall found that only 8.4 percent of lung cancer patients and 2.4 percent of breast cancer patients included in the study died within 30 days of undergoing chemotherapy. The “up to 50 percent” figure refers to a mortality rate of 50.9 percent in one hospital region, which researchers said had mistakenly included the death of a patient who was undergoing palliative chemotherapy in its data. The research also did not try to determine whether the patients were “killed by the drugs,” as the story claimed, but instead looked at deaths of patients who were receiving chemotherapy in the hope of curing their cancer.

The site has also published false claims about medical researchers. A January 2019 article claimed that “Dr. Judy A. Mikovits, PhD, was thrown in prison after she refused to discredit her own research that led to the discovery that deadly retroviruses have been transmitted to 25 million Americans through vaccines.” Mikovits was arrested on Nov. 18, 2011, on charges she had stolen lab notebooks and a computer after being fired from her job researching chronic fatigue syndrome, not for refusing “to discredit her own research.” The charges were dropped in June 2012.

Although Mikovits had been fired after the journal Science retracted a study she authored associating chronic fatigue syndrome with a virus called XMRV, that study did not tie the virus to vaccines. She only started making claims that the virus was linked to vaccinations years after her arrest, first in a 2014 book.

Because of Medicine-Today.net’s promotion of false and unsubstantiated claims about chemotherapy and cancer treatments and its misrepresentation of published research, NewsGuard has determined the site repeatedly publishes false content and fails to gather and present information responsibly. The stories’ headlines also contain similar false claims that are in stories.

Medicine-Today.net has no separate opinion section, but its news stories frequently include the author’s opinion. For example, a November 2018 article, “After Getting Flu Shot: New York State Senator Gets Sick For 2 Weeks, Then Dies,” suggested that New York State Sen. Jose Peralta’s death was connected to receiving the flu vaccine. The New York City medical examiner’s office determined in January 2019 that Peralta died from leukemia complications. The Medicine-Today.net article claimed that news organizations were suppressing discussion of a connection to the flu vaccine. “If there is one thing that could be guaranteed, it is that Mainstream Media will NEVER allude to a possible connection between vaccines and human illness, disease and death.”

The site’s news articles often include criticism of the pharmaceutical industry. For example, an October 2018 article titled “Big Pharma and Organized Crime — They Are More Similar Than You May Think” stated, “the industry is filled with examples of wrongful death, extortion, fraud, corruption, obstruction of justice, embezzlement, fake journals, harassment and hit lists that would make even the most hardened Mafia godfather blush.”

Because the site includes opinionated statements in news articles, and does not disclose its pro-alternative medicine perspective, NewsGuard has determined that Medicine-Today.net does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

The site does not have a posted corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find any examples of corrections to its articles.

Two emails sent by NewsGuard to an email address listed on the site, seeking comment on its history of publishing false claims, corrections policy, separation of news and opinion, and use of deceptive headlines, were returned as undeliverable. Two Facebook messages, including one sent in 2020, to the “antiBigpharma” page associated with the site was not returned. No phone number is listed on the site.

**Transparency**

The site does not disclose details about its ownership or editorial leadership.

Articles are generally attributed only to the apparent pseudonym "BRUCEWAYNE," even when a note at the end of the story discloses the story was originally published on another site. Medicine-Today.net lists an email address for Bruce Wayne. However, because the author is
publishing articles under an apparent pseudonym, NewsGuard has
determined that the website does not meet its standard for providing
information about content creators.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

Two emails sent by NewsGuard to an email address on the site, seeking
comment on the lack of information about ownership, content
creators, and editorial leadership, were returned as undeliverable. Two
Facebook messages, including one sent in 2020, to the "antibig Pharma"
page associated with the site were not returned. No phone number is
listed on the site.

History
The site’s domain name was registered in August 2018.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 17, 2020.

Written by: John Gregory
Edited by: Sarah Brandt, Amy Westfield

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

Ownership and Financing
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