

thetruthaboutcancer.com

A website that has repeatedly promoted unproven and potentially dangerous cancer treatments as well as false claims about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 12.5/100

Ownership and Financing

TheTruthAboutCancer.com is owned by TTAC Publishing, LLC, a private company based in Nevada. Business records identify a branch of that company, also named TTAC Publishing, LLC, as based in Portland, Tennessee and lists Ty Bollinger as its registered agent. Bollinger is also listed as the registrant of the website.

The site identifies Ty Bollinger and his wife, Charlene Bollinger, as TheTruthAboutCancer.com's co-founders. A biography for Ty Bollinger describes him as a "medical researcher, talk radio host, health freedom advocate, former competitive bodybuilder and also a certified public accountant." Charlene Bollinger's biography describes her as a "health freedom advocate," as well as a "former model and actress, fitness buff, and lover of healthy food and living."

The site runs advertisements. It sells monthly memberships that include access to a private Facebook group, additional video content, and monthly question-and-answer sessions with the Bollingers. The site also generates revenue through the sale of books and videos produced by the Bollingers, as well as health products and supplements.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✓ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

The Join Our Mission page on TheTruthAboutCancer.com says the site's mission is "to eradicate cancer and stay ahead on the most powerful ways for you to avoid & beat cancer."

A separate page that lists the Bollingers' upcoming speaking engagements says, "After losing several family members to conventional cancer treatments, they set out to learn the truth about cancer and the

cancer industry, working together tirelessly to help others to learn the truth that sets them free to live healthy, happy lives.”

The site primarily publishes stories promoting alternative treatments for cancer, as well as stories advocating lifestyle changes that the site claims can prevent cancer. The Nutrition section includes recipes and dieting tips, as well as articles promoting various supplements, herbs, and spices purported to have cancer-fighting properties.

Videos on the site include presentations from the annual The Truth About Cancer Live conference, with headlines such as “Activated Charcoal: The Fire of Transformation (Part 1 – video)” and “Dr. Josh Axe on the Power of the Body to Self Heal (video).”

Credibility

The Truth About Cancer has repeatedly promoted ineffective, unproven, and potentially dangerous medical treatments. The site also published misinformation regarding COVID-19.

For example, a July 2020 article, titled “8 ‘Facts’ About Coronavirus That Are Actually Lies,” stated: “The international lockdown is based upon the idea that there is a new distinct virus SARS-CoV2 which is spreading, infecting and causing the disease known as ‘COVID-19.’ However, the virus itself has never been isolated nor thoroughly proven to be causing the disease.”

Contrary to the article’s claim, the virus that causes COVID-19 was isolated on Jan. 7, 2020, according to the World Health Organization. According to a July 2020 article by science fact-checking website Science Feedback, the virus has been proven to be the cause of COVID-19. In multiple peer-reviewed studies, researchers have isolated the virus from human patients and then infected primates with it, with the primates displaying the same symptoms of COVID-19 as humans and having detectable levels of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in their bodies.

In a September 2020 article headlined “CDC Admits to Inflating COVID Death Count,” the website claimed that “the CDC recently released data showing that 94% of

reported COVID-19 deaths may have been falsely reported. According to recent data from this government agency, only 6% of deaths attributed to COVID-19 can actually be attributed to the virus.”

This claim misrepresented a weekly report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. based on data from death certificates. In the Aug. 26, 2020, edition of the report under “Comorbidities,” the CDC wrote, “For 6% of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned. For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death.”

Listing additional conditions or causes on a death certificate was standard practice before the COVID-19 pandemic under CDC guidelines. While the CDC has stated that people with preexisting conditions ranging from obesity to cancer are at an increased risk of dying if they develop COVID-19, that does not mean their death cannot be attributed to COVID-19, as TheTruthAboutCancer.com claimed.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, addressed this claim in an interview on ABC’s “Good Morning America” in September 2020. The CDC data “does not mean that someone who has hypertension or diabetes who dies of COVID didn't die of COVID-19. They did,” Fauci said. “So the numbers that you've been hearing, the 180,000-plus deaths, are real deaths from COVID-19. Let there not be any confusion about that.”

A January 2020 article titled “Ozone Therapy: A Powerful Cancer Treatment & Healing Protocol,” promoted the use of ozone gas to raise oxygen levels within the body as a treatment for cancer and other diseases. “Since the time when ozone was first used medically, it has consistently proven itself to be a hearty fighter in a myriad of disease conditions and afflictions,” the article stated. “These include cancer, liver disease, auto-immune disease, heart disease, allergies, diabetes, Lyme disease, macular degeneration, viral diseases, rheumatism/arthritis, geriatric conditions, SARS and AIDS.”

Contrary to the article's claims, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulation, last revised in April 2019, states, "Ozone is a toxic gas with no known useful medical application in specific, adjunctive, or preventive therapy. In order for ozone to be effective as a germicide, it must be present in a concentration far greater than that which can be safely tolerated by man and animals."

The American Cancer Society states on its website that "Available scientific evidence does not support claims that putting oxygen-releasing chemicals into a person's body is effective in treating cancer." A 2001 review of existing scientific evidence, published in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, stated that the deaths of at least five patients had been associated with their use of ozone therapy.

A November 2019 article headlined "How to Use Coffee Enemas to Detoxify & Heal from Cancer" recommends the "Gerson Therapy," which the article described as "a strict protocol of diet, dietary supplements, and coffee enemas." The article claimed that "the Gerson therapy is said to achieve a 50% cure rate and is one of the best alternative cancer treatments today. This is really quite remarkable given that most of his cancer patients were far advanced with the disease."

Studies of the Gerson therapy dating to the 1940s have found no evidence that it can treat cancer, according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's website warns that coffee enemas can be dangerous, noting that they can cause "electrolyte imbalance, which has resulted in serious infections, dehydration, colitis, constipation, seizures, pleural and pericardial effusions (fluid collecting in the lining around the lungs and heart), and death."

An October 2019 article titled "4 Reasons Your Bra May Be Causing Breast Cancer," promoted the unfounded claim that wearing a bra can increase the risk for developing breast cancer. The article quoted a 1995 book, "Dressed to Kill: The Link between Breast Cancer and Bras," in which researchers Sydney Ross Singer and Soma Grismaijer claimed to have conducted a study of over 5,000 women. The article said that the study

found “that women who wore a bra 24 hours a day had a 3 in 4 chance of developing breast cancer. They also found that those who wore a bra less than 12 hours a day reduced that risk significantly, to one in 52.”

Singer and Grismaije’s research was not published in a peer-reviewed journal, and studies published since the book was released have not supported their conclusions. A study from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* in September 2014, found no evidence of a link between wearing a bra and an increased risk of breast cancer.

An April 2019 article titled “30+ Natural Alternatives to Consider Before Chemotherapy (#6 May Surprise You!)” promoted several unsubstantiated cancer cures such as Protocol, a liquid containing corrosive chemicals such as sulfuric acid and potassium hydroxide, according to the FDA. The compound has also been sold under the names CanCell or Cantron. The article claimed, “Protocol literally sucks the energy out of cancerous cells without damaging healthy cells.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, none of the chemicals used in Protocol have been shown to be effective in treating any type of cancer. Studies using human cancer cells, conducted in the 1990s, concluded that Protocol “could not be taken in doses high enough to kill cancer cells in the body,” the institute said on its website.

The same article listed “chiropractic care” as an alternative to chemotherapy. According to Cancer Research UK, while chiropractic treatment may help alleviate headaches and back pain in cancer patients, “there is no evidence that it can help prevent, treat or cure cancer.”

Several articles on TheTruthAboutCancer.com have promoted a potentially dangerous substance called laetrile, found in pits of fruits such as apricots, as a cancer cure. For example, an October 2018 article titled “The Incredible Story of Laetrile Part III: A Cancer Cure

Cover-Up? The Conclusion,” claimed that laetrile “is selectively toxic to cancer cells without affecting normal, non-cancerous cells.”

“Patients who have never been treated with chemotherapy or radiation have significantly better recovery rates when treated with Laetrile. It is said that no person taking Laetrile has ever developed cancer – and cancer patients who respond favorably to Laetrile do not relapse as long as they are maintained on Laetrile therapy,” the article continued.

Clinical studies of laetrile going back several decades have found that the substance is not an effective treatment for cancer. A clinical trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1982, concluded that laetrile is “a toxic drug that is not effective as a cancer treatment.” According to a page on the National Cancer Institute that discusses laetrile, the substance has shown “no anticancer activity in human clinical trials,” and can have serious side effects that “mirror the symptoms of cyanide poisoning,” including liver damage, coma, and death.

In 2020, TheTruthAboutCancer.com published false and unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 virus. In a February 2020 article titled “Man-Made Coronavirus Kills Hundreds (Bill Gates has a Vaccine for That),” the site claimed, “Bill Gates, the WHO, and everyone else in the medical industry are working on a nCoV-2019 vaccine ... a vaccine that they patented half a decade before the virus appeared ... a virus that was created in a lab.”

The article based this claim off an existing patent held by the U.K.-based Pirbright Institute, which has accepted funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The research institute’s patent, however, is for a strain of coronavirus that only affects chickens, not humans. “Pirbright does not currently work with human coronaviruses,” the institute said in a January 2020 post on its website. No vaccine has been patented for the strain of coronavirus responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

There is also no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was created in a lab. A February 2020 study published in the journal Nature found that the virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

Because TheTruthAboutCancer.com has repeatedly promoted false health claims and unsubstantiated medical treatments in its articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The website does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard could not find any corrections.

TheTruthAboutCancer.com discloses its perspective on cancer topics in sections of the site called Cancer Causes, Cancer Prevention, and Cancer Treatments. In the latter section, for example, the site states “Because the medical industrial complex has such an immense influence over Western medicine, cancer patients are often given little choice when it comes to treatment. Doctors will tell you how long you have to live, and insist that chemo, radiation, and surgery are your only chance. But what these doctors don’t tell you is that there are a number of ways to treat and beat cancer naturally!”

However, the site frequently includes unlabeled opinion in articles labeled as “breaking news,” “news update,” which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, a May 2020 article titled “Breaking News: Trump Signs Executive Order Against Censorship on Social Media (part 1),” praised U.S. President Donald Trump for signing an executive order to limit liability protections for social media platforms. “The tyranny and censorship ends NOW!,” the article stated. “President Donald Trump, as of today, is signing an Executive Order to stop the oppression and restore our God-given

and constitutional freedoms. For nearly a decade, the radical left has been weaponizing the media against us in order to promote their own agenda.”

A December 2019 story titled “New Jersey Moves to Abolish Religious Freedom,” labeled as “breaking news,” the site described a bill in the New Jersey Senate that would have restricted religious exemption to vaccination requirements as a move to “strip citizens of their constitutional rights under the First Amendment.”

The article asked readers to call legislators to oppose the bill, saying “It is imperative that you reach out to these elected officials IMMEDIATELY. We need to flood their inboxes and light up their phones if we want to preserve the freedom bestowed upon us by God and protected by the Constitution.”

An October 2019 story headlined “New Treatments Offer Renewed Hope for Melanoma Patients,” labeled as a “news update,” the article said, “Rather than supporting the immune system, chemotherapy destroys it, leaving patients susceptible to infections, chronic pain and nausea, and even secondary cancers! Chemotherapy is a ‘scorched earth’ approach to defeating cancer; doctors are simply gambling that your body can survive longer than the cancer. Sadly, this is often not the case.”

NewsGuard did not receive a response to four emails, including two sent in 2020, and two messages sent through the site’s contact form seeking comment on its history of publishing false health claims, approach to corrections, and its mixing of news and opinion. A telephone message left for the Bollingers at a general telephone number listed on the website was also not returned.

Transparency

The website’s ownership by TTAC Publishing, LLC is only disclosed in the site’s copyright notice, privacy policy and Terms & Conditions page, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for revealing ownership in a user-friendly manner.

The site describes the Bollingers as the site's co-founders. Charlene Bollinger is named as the site's CEO in her biography. However, the biography is only available at the end of articles written by Charlene Bollinger, and not centrally available on the website, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for revealing who is in charge.

The site provides a general contact form and customer service telephone number for users.

Articles are generally credited to their authors, with biographies provided at the end of the article. No individual contact information is provided for content creators.

Advertisements on the site are distinguished from editorial content.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to four emails, including two sent in 2020, and two messages sent through the site's contact form seeking comment on the site's failure to clearly disclose owners, or editorial leadership. The Bollingers also did not return a voice message left at the customer service telephone number listed on their website.

History

The site's domain name was registered in 2011.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Sept. 3, 2020, to include new examples of the site's content, including about COVID-19. The label was previously updated on March 11, 2020.

Written by: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Eric Effron](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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Financing

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