



**Believe Big**  
Helping Families Navigate the Cancer Journey

## Frequently Asked Questions About Mistletoe

### **What is mistletoe or Iscador?**

The liquid extract of the mistletoe plant has been used as an alternative method to treat cancer for close to a century. Mistletoe injections are currently among the most widely used unconventional cancer treatments in Europe. In Europe, the most common commercial preparations are sold under the trade names Iscador and Helixor. Only the European species of the mistletoe plant is used for cancer treatment.

### **How can mistletoe be used and will it be effective for my type of cancer?**

Mistletoe (IsCADOR/ISCAR/Helixor) can be used in malignant and not-malignant tumors, for stimulation of bone marrow activity, alongside conventional treatments to offset the side effects of chemotherapy/radiation like nausea, vomiting, and lack of appetite. It can also be used to diminish tumor-related pain and to reduce the risk of tumor recurrence.

### **Why are mistletoe treatments not available at cancer institutions in the United States?**

Even though it is used all over the world and proven effective in treating cancer, until a clinical trial is done here in the United States, oncologists cannot offer this treatment as standard of care. Mistletoe can be prescribed in the United States by approved anthroposophic physicians who are trained in complimenting conventional treatment.

### **Can I be a part of the clinical trial that is being developed at Johns Hopkins or are there physicians nearby that I can contact to pursue mistletoe treatment?**

Unfortunately, the clinical trial is still in the development phase. The good news is that there are 50 anthroposophic physicians in the United States that are currently trained in mistletoe that can help you today. You can view a list by state at the following link. <http://www.paam.net/directory-of-members.html>

### **How is it administered and how often?**

Mistletoe is administered subcutaneously (by injection) at a frequency determined by the prescribing physician based on your individual needs.

### **How much does mistletoe cost?**

Mistletoe treatments will not cripple or bankrupt a family, as it is only a fraction of the cost of chemotherapy. The cost depends on a physician's recommendations on extract strength and frequency averaging \$100-150/month.

### **Are there any side effects to mistletoe?**

Patients can experience headaches or a fever, but it is rare. Most patients experience a better quality of life as it stimulates the immune system.

### **How can I help with the mistletoe clinical trial?**

You can be a proud and active partner of this historic event by making a donation specifically for this trial. You can donate online today at [www.believebig.org/clinicaltrial.html](http://www.believebig.org/clinicaltrial.html) or mail a check to: Believe Big at 14030 Woodens Lane, Reisterstown, MD 21136. All donations are tax deductible.

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