

The flavor of chemotherapy

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THE FLAVOR OF CHEMOTHERAPY

Exploring smell and taste function in children with cancer

1. Children with cancer are more likely to experience heightened smell sensitivity than smell loss. (this thesis)
2. Taste changes in children with cancer are heterogeneous and include changes in taste sensitivity, altered taste preferences, and food tasting different than before. (this thesis)
3. Objective measures of smell and taste underestimate the presence of chemosensory changes in children with cancer. (this thesis)
4. Both increased and decreased smell and taste sensitivity are perceived as unpleasant and impact the daily lives of children with cancer. (this thesis)
5. Medical doctors overestimate their own – and underestimate a dietitian's – nutrition knowledge.
6. Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food. (Hippocrates)
7. One of the few positive things that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought us, is attention to the importance of the chemical senses in our daily lives.
8. Health-care professionals in pediatric oncology should not be allowed to wear perfume during working hours.
9. Every child with cancer deserves personalized (dietary) advice from a dietitian.
10. Doing a PhD and cycling have three things in common: reaching the top takes forever, you never go in a straight line, and you frequently bump into yourself or others (both literally and figuratively). However, the view along the way is more than worth it.
11. A PhD trajectory without great colleagues is a recipe for failure.

Mirjam van den Brink

2024