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## James Ratcliff

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### Chemotherapy and oral sores

Mouth sores, mouth ulcers, or Oral Mucositis (OM) are abrasions of the mucosal layer of the oral cavity. OM is an important issue for cancer patients since most patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation therapy face a risk of developing OM. In some patients these ulcers become so severe that they have to delay or discontinue the cancer treatment. The objective of the project was to conduct a systematic search for most prevalent drugs and type of cancers associated with OM, a knowledge not well documented. Our research on the extent of cancer drugs leading to OM revealed that about 38 drugs cause OM in >30% of the patients. Secondly, an analysis of number of drugs that cause OM in different cancers revealed that 20 drugs cause OM in breast cancer, 19 in lung cancer, 16 in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, 13 in acute lymphocytic leukemia, 12 in melanoma and 11 in ovarian cancer. Further, the data from NCI website revealed five cancers – Bladder, breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate – Encompass a significant population of patients that are suffering from OM induced by chemotherapy. Often medical professionals circumvent OM by maintaining good oral health e.g., by regular use of oral rinse. However, most oral rinses contain alcohol and cannot be used by patients with OM. ClōSYS oral rinses are alcohol free, sulfate free, pH balanced and contain stabilized chlorine dioxide. Because of its non-irritating nature and antibacterial and sanitizing properties of stabilized chlorine dioxide, ClōSYS unflavored oral rinse is most appropriate choice for circumventing OM in cancer patients. About 40 customers and 140 Dentists and Hygienists responded to our survey. Most respondents recorded relief using ClōSYS oral rinse in conditions such as dry mouth and mouth sores.

### Biography

James Ratcliff is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Rowpar Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ, maker of the Dentists Choice and ClōSYS brands of oral care products. In 2014, Rowpar received the US Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year Award. From 1989 to 2000, he served as Senior Research Scientist, Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University. From 1979 to 1989, he was Professor and Program Head for higher education at Iowa State University. He is the author of 120 articles, books, book chapters, is co-inventor on over 24 patents and patents pending. He is active Member of the Arizona Biotechnology Assn., American Academy of Oral and Systemic Health, American Education Research Assn., and the International Association for Dental Research. He holds a PhD in Higher Education from Washington State University, a MA in History from Washington State University, and a BA from Utah State University.

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