



Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine response to
21st Century Snake Oil
"60 Minutes" Cameras Expose Medical Con Men Who Prey on Dying Victims

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Last night on CBS, "60 Minutes" ran a story exposing medical con men who prey on victims by capitalizing on a promise of stem cells to cure serious neurological diseases (<http://tinyurl.com/35udc78>). The activities of these individuals are deplorable. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of these unscrupulous dealers of false hope.

At the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine, we want the public to realize that legitimate Integrative Medicine practitioners can recommend the use of varied appropriate therapies – both conventional and alternative. We are open to some experimental therapies, but only when guided and managed by appropriate professionals working in accredited institutions. Further, we are skeptical of any individual who claims that he/she can "cure" life-threatening medical conditions, especially at great cost to the patient. Stem cell therapies hold the promise of breakthroughs in health care, but we are at an early stage of investigation. Purported therapies of high-risk – either medically or financially – need scrutiny and close monitoring before they are recommended to patients.