

Author Full Name : Kate Flaherty**Received Date :** 01/15/2025 01:00 PM**Comments Received :**

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2024. My surgical oncologist, Dr. Louis Rivera with Scripps in San Diego County, became agitated when I brought up the issue of post surgical pain control. He insisted that no patient should ever be in possession of any opioid pain medication as that contributes crimes such as burglary. He then insisted that nobody ever needs opioid pain medication after any surgery; that Tylenol alone is sufficient. I found a mild opioid from another source and successfully managed my own pain for several days after cancer surgery before I could bridge to NSAIDS. This doctor only operates on cancer patients and many of them are elderly, and he won't prescribe pain medication after any surgery because he's become radicalized by the constant drumbeat against opioids. I read the 2022 CDC guidelines and it does not say anywhere that elderly cancer patients should be the first line of attack in the opioid crisis by doctors who treat them. But this doctor has been terrorized by the government into accepting this as gospel. I cannot fathom the amount of pain he forces upon his elderly patients after surgery. It's unconscionable and the harm he creates is appalling.