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**Introduction Page 1**

In the United States alone, over one million new cases of cancer are diagnosed each year. Cancer is currently the second leading cause of death in the United States today, claiming more than 1500 victims each day. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death in women, and prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men. Current treatment for cancer involves radiotherapy and chemotherapy, in which X-rays and drugs are directed toward the tumor with the goal of mutating the growing cellsí DNA sequence to prevent the tumor from growing further. However, cancer therapy can cause damage and infertility to those with cancer in the reproductive organs, and chemotherapy can damage healthy cells along with the cancer cells. Furthermore, with average overall costs reaching over $900,000 per patient, patients are often left with a heavy financial burden. Yet, this burden does not necessarily ensure absolute cancer eradication. While statistics show that cancer rates are beginning to stabilize due to improved detection methods and treatments, current treatments do not ensure absolute elimination of cancer. Therefore, scientists and cancer patients alike have been seeking adjunct methods to cancer prevention.

As Dr. Maurice Bennink stated, “diet and lifestyle are considered important factors contributing to the geographical variability in cancer” (Bennink, 1). This is significant when considering the rates of prostate cancer incidence in Asia, as can be seen in the graphs below (Prostate Cancer Center – Soy):

**Fig A. Average Amount of Soy Consumption per Person by Nation**

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| **Fig B Prostate Cancer Incidence in Males by Nation. Countries consuming large amounts of soy, such as Japan and China, have lower prostate cancer incidences than countries consuming low amounts of soy, such as countries in North America.** |

Studies show that prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates are significantly lower in Asian countries such as China, Japan, and Taiwan when compared to the United States. Studies also show that breast cancer incidence is lower in Hong Kong and Singapore as well. Yet, people who migrate from low-risk countries, such as China and Japan, to the United States have the same risk for breast cancer and prostate cancer as the rest of those who live in the United States. Researchers attribute this increase in cancer risk to the change in lifestyle. Although there are many aspects to consider, it has been suggested that a change in diet can at least partially explain the increase in cancer risk. One notable difference in diet is that these countries consume over twenty times the amount of soybeans than that in the United States. Thus, perhaps soybeans will be found to be an adjunct treatment for cancer, which is the objective of our experiment.

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