

Little area cancer victim in Bahamas for therapy

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Doctors at the hospital operated on Amber and found that the cancer had spread to her brain and spine. The physicians prescribed a conventional treatment of radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

Even with treatment, they gave the little girl a 50-50 chance of surviving a year, and a 25 percent chance of surviving five years.

Because of the radiation treatments, Amber's hair has fallen out and her mother comforted her by telling her the "hair fairy" would come at night if she put her tresses under her pillow.

Ms. Calistro said they've been shopping since then for little caps to protect the girl's head from the sun.

She also said that she has detected another lump in the incision where the previous growth was removed.

Although Ms. Calistro had Amber on radiation therapy for several weeks, she chose not to use chemotherapy at all and instead began her search for alternative methods of treating cancer.

Ms. Calistro at one point had considered treating Amber with the controversial Laetrile, a substance made from apricot pits that some claim has an effect on cancer.



With her decision to try Burton's immunotherapy, Ms. Calistro has taken Amber off radiation therapy, against the advice of the girl's physicians at Yale-New Haven.

Ms. Calistro said she has signed an agreement with the hospital releasing it from responsibility in the case.

"I told them I was planning to take her to a doctor for non-toxic therapy," Ms. Calistro said. She added that despite the doctors' medical objections, they have been emotionally supportive in the matter.

"They have offered us terminal care if we want it," she said.