

Vinay K. Prasad, M.D.

Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco
Bimonthly columnist, *Medscape*
Author, *Malignant: How Bad Policy and Bad Evidence Harm People with Cancer*

Better health policy and decision making



Biography

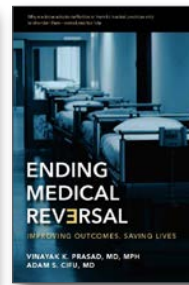
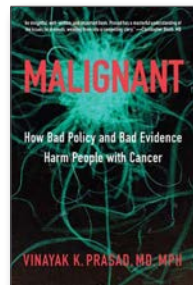
Dr. Vinay K. Prasad's work has demonstrated that a large percentage of medical procedures, diagnostic tools, and medications are destined to be found useless — or even harmful — to patients. To describe the instances where common or established healthcare practices or therapies are found faulty and, as a result, discontinued, he uses the term medical reversal.

Medical reversals occur when testing is not adequate and there is actually little or no evidence to support the efficacy of a therapy, screening, or drug. As these are often sound in theory and well entrenched by the time they are proven flawed, their elimination from prescription commonly takes years. They jeopardize patient health and waste limited healthcare resources long after the reversed practices are proven ineffective, and they erode overall trust in the medical community.

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Topics & Books

Healthcare



Author of *Malignant: How Bad Policy and Bad Evidence Harm People with Cancer*

Dr. Prasad takes fascinating examples from nearly every medical specialty — such as the arthritis drug Vioxx, female hormone replacement therapy, and mattress covers for dust mite allergies — to explore “advances” that turned out to be dangerous or useless. He explains how current healthcare industry and media support the establishment of ultimately “reversed” practices, and he outlines a comprehensive plan to reform medical education, research funding and protocols, and drug approval processes to help prevent them. To further help ensure that more of what gets done in doctors’ offices and hospitals is truly effective in improving outcomes, he provides suggestions for patient scrutiny and advocacy.

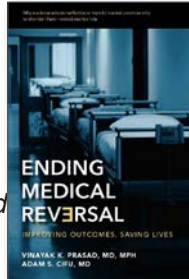
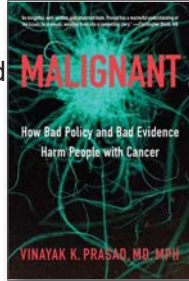
Vinay K. Prasad MD / MPH is a hematologist-oncologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. He holds appointments in the Division of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and as a Senior Scholar in the Center for Health Care Ethics. In his new book, *Malignant: How Bad Policy and Bad Evidence Harm People with Cancer*, Dr. Prasad writes about the many sobering examples of how patients are too often failed by cancer policy and by how oncology is practiced.

Prior to working at UCSF, Dr. Prasad was Associate Professor at the Oregon Health and Science University, where he won the 2017 Craig Okada Teaching Award for Best Teacher of the Fellowship Program, the 2018

Faculty Mentorship Award from Internal Medicine Residency Program, and the 2019 J. David Bristow Award.

A graduate of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and recipient of their Chairman’s Award in Internal Medicine, Dr. Prasad trained in general internal medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago where he received the Gerald Grumet award for best resident teacher. He completed his fellowship in Hematology and Oncology in the joint program between National Cancer Institute, and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute both at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, where he was also a Cancer Prevention Fellow, and he holds a Masters of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

In addition to being author of *Malignant* and co-author, with Dr. Adam Cifu, of *Ending Medical Reversal: Improving Outcomes, Saving Lives* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), Dr. Prasad has written extensively for publications including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*. He is a bimonthly columnist for *Medscape*, where he discusses interesting issues in medicine on topics such as cancer screening, cancer drugs, the US FDA approval process, cost of care, research funding, science reporting, and hype.



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