



Speaking from Experience Arthritis in Childhood

Transcript for chapter 4 of 9: Wonder cures and myths

Peter and Toni have a daughter, 14 years, with arthritis: Most of the advice we would get would be from older people with arthritis and they would suggest what they would do for their condition, which is not relevant to Melanie's situation.

Michelle and David have a daughter, 5 years, with arthritis: It's surprising just how many people have got advice, just sort of seem to come out of the woodwork. You could nearly write a book on all of the different remedies.

Conrad and Doune have a daughter, 7 years, with arthritis: I see it as people being really keen to try and help in whatever way they can. A lot of it we just haven't taken up at all. We've often talked to our rheumatologist with the various propositions people have put to us and for whatever reason we've really stuck to the rheumatologist's mainstream medication.

Michelle and David: People shouldn't be giving advice if they've never been involved in seeing what goes on.

Conrad and Doune: I do have an open mind about what can help and what doesn't. The thing about actually responding to everyone's suggestions is that it's not just a matter of going along, buying it and giving it to your daughter. It's a commitment to actually find out more about it and to understand what's behind the particular herb working or the approach. There's a commitment in that.

Peter and Toni: It can be disheartening when people come with their point of view because it almost puts you down – as a parent you're not looking for the right answers or looking for a way to make your child better, you're sitting back and waiting for people to come to you with advice. And so it makes you feel insecure at times as a parent. You think you should be out there looking for more, but really you're doing everything that you can.

Conrad and Doune: There's always a concern that if people suggest something and then you don't follow through with their suggestion that they're going to think that you don't care about your daughter or you don't care about them, or you must be wanting her to have arthritis, or that sort of thing. I don't know if people think that at all, but you always think that they think that.

Michelle and David: You need to focus on what way you want to go and stay focused on what sort of treatment you want to give your children.