Fact Sheet

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CyberKnife Centers OF TAMPA BAY

Beating Cancer with CyberKnife Centers of Tampa Bay

Our patient featured in The Tampa Tribune

"The Only Thing To Do is Live for Today"

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE
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Name: Patsy Evans
Age: 50
Residence: Bradenton, Florida
Goal: To live a cancer-free, healthy life

Why I Contacted CyberKnife:

My mother lost her battle with breast cancer in 2003, so I was terrified when I was diagnosed with breast cancer myself in 2008. Fearing that I might not be around for my husband and sons, I underwent a double mastectomy. Unfortunately, we soon discovered the cancer had spread to my liver.

My oncologists were trying to fight one cancer at a time. I was on chemotherapy for several months in an attempt to shrink the tumor in my breast, but it was only effective at keeping the one on my liver from growing. When it came time to address the metastatic cancer, I really had limited options. Chemotherapy was something I wanted to avoid again. It makes you so tired, you can't even describe it. I briefly considered a liver re-sectioning surgery to cut out the affected tissue, but that procedure is very invasive, and I began looking for other options.

I found CyberKnife Centers of Tampa Bay while doing research online. The CyberKnife technology is so precise that it targets the tumor but spares the surrounding healthy tissue. The best part was I was treated in just three short sessions and experienced only a few side effects. It was really the easiest decision I've made in my fight against cancer.

How I Did It:

After my first CyberKnife treatment, I actually went shopping. It was completely different from my chemotherapy sessions where I had to sit for hours at a time and felt exhausted afterward. By comparison, the CyberKnife sessions were just 45 minutes each.

Without my research, I probably would have had the surgery and risked severe side effects, a lengthy recovery, and possibly even an infection. I wanted better for myself and never gave up hope there was another way to beat this disease. Thankfully, the radiosurgery successfully treated the tumor on my liver.

Hurdles:

In 2010, the cancer metastasized again - this time on the spine. My battle with cancer wasn't over. The spine is a tricky place to treat because of all the vital organs that are nearby. I didn't waste any time going back to CyberKnife Centers of Tampa Bay. I trusted my life to this machine and it has paid off twice.

I'm determined not to let cancer win. After my second round of CyberKnife, I was lucky enough to go on vacation to Europe with my husband. He really was my rock during the entire process. I know there were times when he was just as scared as I was, but he helped me through it.

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Going the Distance:

Now, I don't think about the cancer; I just live my life. The battles have made me a stronger person. The latest scans show no evidence of disease, and the tumor on my liver can no longer be seen. Everything changes when you have cancer; there's really no comparison. But I'm so grateful today for everything.

Best Advice:

Cancer is a chronic disease but it can be managed. I advise everyone to do research so you understand your diagnosis and your treatment options. Fighting back is the most important step.

Today, other than having to schedule my Herceptin treatments (the maintenance chemotherapy that keeps my cancer from returning), I am free to live life as I want. I celebrate every single holiday, birthday or goal achieved because I'm so grateful to see each one.

Your CyberKnife Team

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Scan here to learn more about the benefits of CyberKnife.