

## My advanced prostate cancer odyssey

Greeting fellow prostate cancer warriors, Otto Sankey here. I was diagnosed in 2013. Diagnosis occurred after a 5.6ng/mL PSA screening, followed by a visit to a urologist who performed a needle biopsy showing Gleason 6 Prostate Cancer. A "run of the mill" case, we thought. Within a month or two, my prostate was removed via robotic surgery. Unfortunately, a couple of months later my PSA was in the 40s. At that point a nuclear med bone scan was performed which showed many bone metastases. This event means the PCa is no longer curable (usually). To make matters even worse, the prostate tissue can now be examined in detail, and the Gleason Score was upgraded to a 10, the most aggressive form. At that point, I became a dedicated PCa warrior. I was started on androgen deprivation therapy (Bicalutamide and Lupron), and joined the American Association of Clinical Oncology to attend the annual meeting in June 2014 in Chicago McCormick Center. Breaking news there was by Dr. Sweeney on early chemotherapy (Docetaxel) for aggressive Prostate Cancer. I had since changed my care to a very good medical oncologist and showed him the results of the latest research. He prescribed it and I had 6 rounds separated by 3 weeks each. It was tolerable but changed me into looking like a hairless mole rat. (That's humor my friend.) Since then I have had a variety of treatments, most of which occurred when the 1st line androgen deprivation failed and I became castrate resistant. There was Provenge (Sipuleucel-T, an immunotherapy), Radium 223 (Xofigo, I found this particularly effective), targeted radiation to spinal vertebrae and pelvis (I found a very good radiation oncologist), Xtandi (Enzalutamide, a 2nd generation antiandrogen that was effective for a while), Zytiga (Abiraterone, another 2nd generation anti-androgen which did little good after failing Xtandi), and chemotherapy again with Jevtana (Cabazitaxel, a 2nd generation PCa cytotoxic chemotherapy).

Next, as options were narrowing, I went on the VISION trial which is a internal targeted radiation therapy given by infusion, Lu177-PSMA-617. Advocacy really paid off here as it was just being researched in the US and I contacted an oncology radiation center in Houston (only 2 places Houston and Omaha at the time) and was patient 002. I was accepted with a PSA of 40 and received 6 doses separated by 6-week intervals. This involved flying to Houston, but nothing to be concerned about. Over the next year I was doing very well, with a PSA level having dropped to 0.03. Most would call that undetectable.

Unfortunately, later it was discovered that Prostate Cancer had metastasized to the liver. This is where I am at now. Soft tissue vital organs are especially serious. I found a specialist and am being treated with high intensity chemo drugs (a combination therapy of 2 chemotherapy drugs), and an immunotherapy, Atezolizumab. As of this writing, I am midway through treatment. Wish me luck, and thanks for reading my story.

*See more*