

My Experience with Brain Cancer in 2013

In 2009 I had lung cancer and after Chemo and Radiation treatments, I was “clear”.

Following that, I had Cat scans of the chest and abdomen every 3-4 months. Add to that MRIs of the brain every 6-8 months (every other CAT scan),

In 2013 An MRI showed a pair of quarter size tumors on the lower left side if the brain. Chemo is ineffective against brain cancer so we saw a surgeon. He said he could remove the outer tumor but not the inner one, so we saw a Radiation Oncologist. He looked over the pictures and said he could kill the inner one with Stereotactic Radiation. This is where they shoot beams of radiation at different angles to the tumor. The beams are low enough intensity not to bother surrounding tissue but they will add up where they join (the tumor). To be successful, the head must remain in the exact same position. To do this, a plastic mesh form is made a week before treatment. this form is then affixed to a frame which is bolted to the table after you lie down, thus holding your head in one place for the 30-40 minutes needed for the procedure. On the day of the procedure, the aids asked what music I liked and switched the room stereo to that Sirius Channel. I then laid down and they bolted the frame to the table. I closed my eyes and luckily was soon asleep. I awoke when they moved me out of the CAT like machine, the procedure complete. Se picture. I just noticed the X in the tape for one of the angles into the tumor.



I then had periodic MRIs to watch the shrinking of the inner tumor. When the Doctor was satisfied it was dying, We scheduled the surgery with the Neurosurgeon. This was a one day experience. I went into the hospital the day before, surgery the next, and home the next. They did a super job, did not shave my head or anything, After a week, you could not tell where they went

in. They cut the scalp, folded the hair and skin aside, drilled a 3/4 inch hole through the skull and used instruments to remove the tumor, put the hair and skin back and sewed it up.

The periodic MRIs continued for about 6 months, they continued every 4 months. Today they show the Necrosis (dead tissue) is still there and as long as it does not change shape, I am good to go. Had my last scan in November of 2020, the Doctor wanted to extend them to 6 months but I am happy at 4 so we compromised at 5. April 2021 will be my next MRI. CAT scans of chest and abdomen are every 4 months, last in December still clear.

I know several people who have had lung cancer and are no longer with us. I count myself lucky.

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