



It's Personal Now:

Lung Cancer in the Era of Targeted Therapies

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Six-year survivor, *ALK*-positive non-small cell lung cancer

2017 Targeted Therapies in Lung Cancer Patient Forum

Cleveland, Ohio

September 16, 2017

June–August 2011

- Developed a persistent dry cough accompanied by some dull pain in chest and shoulders.
- X-rays are hazy; subsequent CT reveals enlarged lymph nodes.
- A large “knot” develops at my left shoulder....
- Scheduled for an emergency biopsy.

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

“Pathology is still running some stains, but I can tell you that this is not sarcoidosis based on the way that lymph node felt in my hands.”

“Matt, I’m sorry to have to tell you this, but this is going to be a *malignancy.*”

August 26, 2011

- Ultimate diagnosis: stage IV adenocarcinoma of the lung (T1N3M1b).
- Original tumor believed to be located in my left lung's lower lobe.
- Multiple metastases:
 - Right lung;
 - Lymph nodes in mediastinum;
 - Lower cervical lymph nodes;
 - Sternum;
 - Gastrohepatic ligament.
- Begin chemotherapy while testing for *tumor biomarkers*.

September 1–8, 2011



- Suffered cardiopulmonary arrest.
- Transferred to the ICU, where my care is directed by **Ren Ashton**.
- CTs and X-rays reveal a laundry list of issues:
 - Enlarged heart;
 - Pleural effusions;
 - Collapse of several lung lobes;
 - Pneumonia infection.
- Chest tubes placed on both sides to withdraw accumulating fluid.

September 9, 2011

- The first good news in a very long time....
- My biopsy tested positive for the *EML4-ALK* mutation.
 - “Congratulations, Matt! You’re a mutant!”
- Qualify for an ALK inhibitor called *crizotinib*.
- Open heart surgery postponed pending a response to crizotinib....

September 12–21, 2011

- Fluid around my heart and lungs begins to dissipate.
- Open heart surgery cancelled.
- Pericardial drain and chest tubes removed.
- Discharged from Cleveland Clinic on September 21—walking out unassisted and without any oxygen!

November 10, 2011

- First CT since my hospital stay:

“Matt, you’ve had what we call
a ***complete response to
treatment.*** We can’t see the
cancer on the scans.”

My treatments since 2011

- **May 2012:** *LDK378* phase II clinical trial at the University of Colorado.
 - Study drug gains FDA approval in 2014 as *ceritinib*.
- **November 2012:** traditional triplet chemotherapy (*carboplatin*, *bevacizumab*, and *pemetrexed*).
 - Maintenance chemotherapy follows (*bevacizumab* and *pemetrexed*).

My treatments since 2011

- **April 2014:** radiation therapy with chemotherapy (*cisplatin*).
 - Maintenance chemotherapy again follows (*bevacizumab* and *pemetrexed*).
- **August 2014:** re-challenge with *crizotinib* and *pemetrexed*.

My treatments since 2011

- **April 2015:** *lorlatinib* phase I clinical trial at Sarah Cannon Research Institute.
 - **July 17:** *another complete therapeutic response!*
- **December 2015:** care transferred to Karmanos Cancer Center.
- **September 2017:** currently on day 900 (approximately) of this phase I trial!

If only it were so straightforward

- Chronic pain
- Infertility
- Partially paralyzed left arm
- Chemo brain
- Therapy-related side effects
- Altered self-esteem
- Career changes
- Depression

The power of personalized medicine

- I went from lying on my death bed to getting out of it under my own power.
- *Each disease is becoming as unique as the patient living with it!*
- We're entering a brave new world of treatment.
- I look forward to living in it—*surviving* it—with you!

Leaving Cleveland Clinic in September 2011





