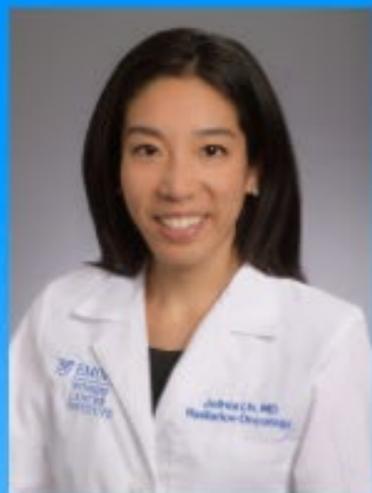




Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers



RT Answers **YouTube Live** Event: May 24, 6 pm ET/3 pm PT



Jolinta Lin, MD
Winship Cancer Institute
Emory University
(Moderator)



Alexandra Diaz, MD, MS
The James Cancer Hospital
The Ohio State University



Chika Madu, MD
Northwell Health



Terence Sio, MD, MS
Mayo Clinic

For more information, visit [RTAnswers.org](https://www.rtananswers.org)



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Format for Tonight

- Panelists will give overview & answer common questions.
- Submit written questions in the YouTube chat
- Recording will be available online in 24 hours

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SELECT A CANCER TYPE



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FIND A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST



City

--- Choose A State ---



--- Choose A Specialty ---



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Today's discussion is informational only and should not be used in place of advice specific to your condition from your medical professional.

We will discuss treatments including surgery, chemotherapy and others. We encourage you to talk to other specialists, where appropriate, about other treatments you are considering.

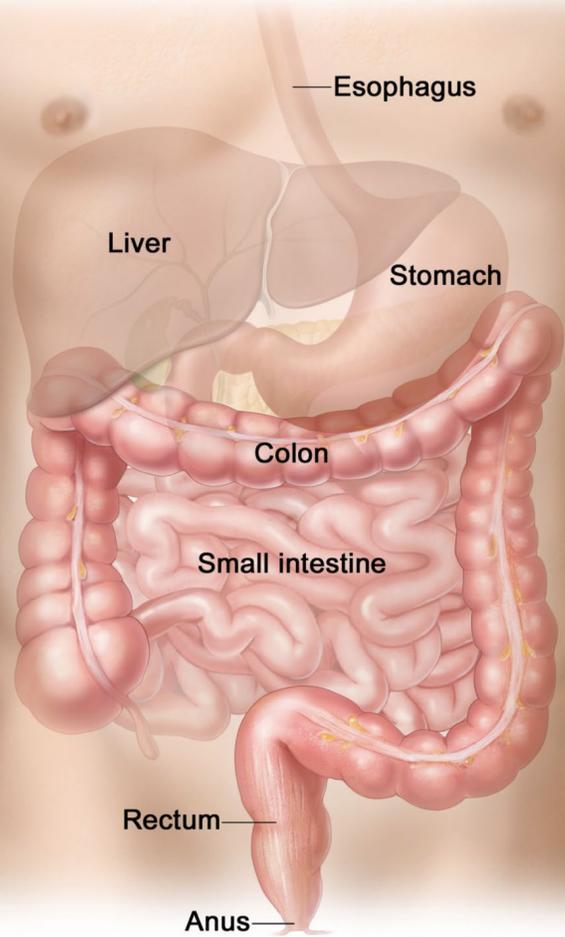


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Types of GI cancers
we will discuss tonight:

Rectal Cancer & Anal Cancer

Lower Gastrointestinal Anatomy



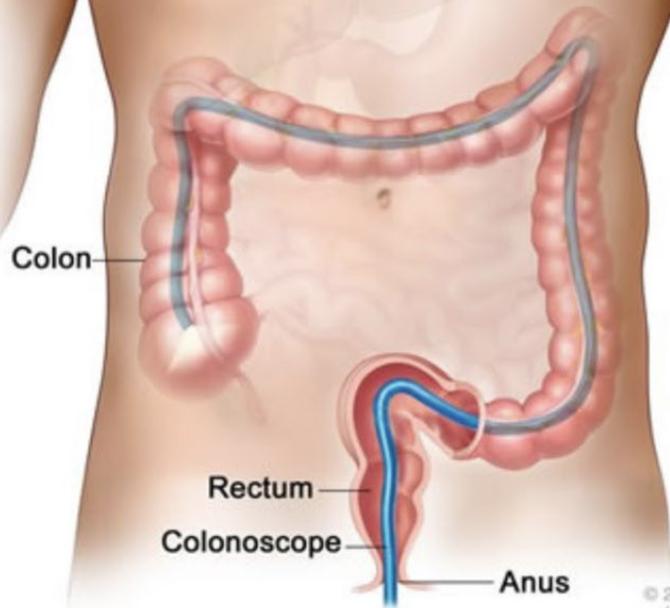
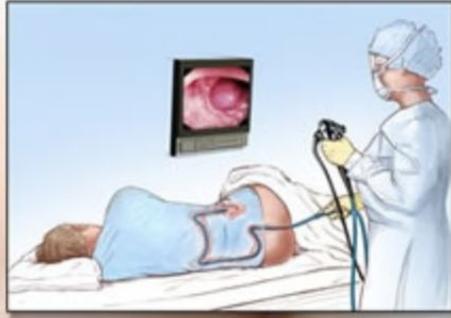
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What is a lower GI cancer?

What is the difference between anal cancer and rectal cancer?

Why does the distinction between the two cancers matter?

Colonoscopy

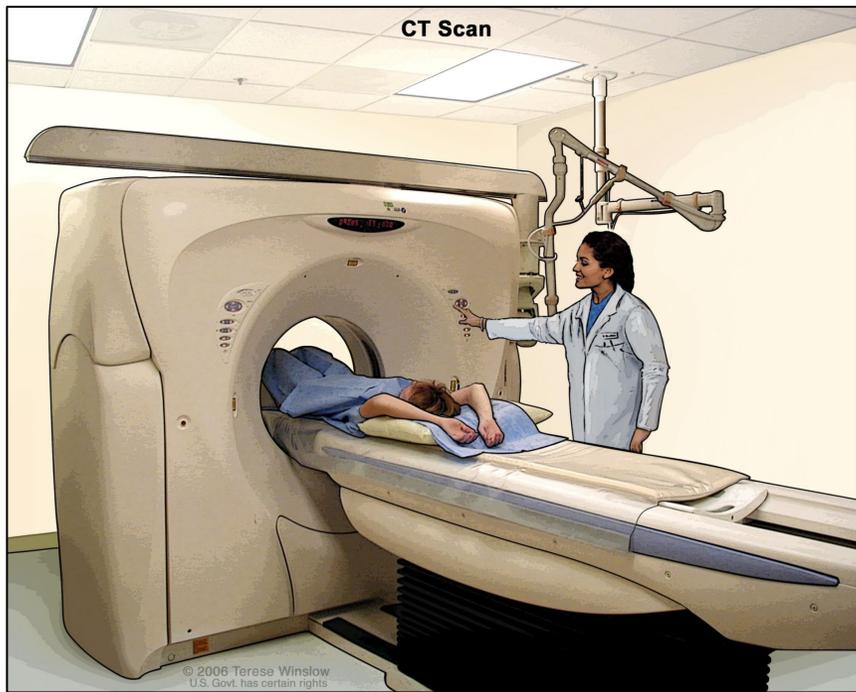


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A colonoscope fully inserted into the colon via the anus and rectum.

What causes
rectal and anal
cancers?

How are lower
GI cancers
diagnosed?



<https://nci-media.cancer.gov/pdq/media/images/428405.jpg>



<https://nci-media.cancer.gov/pdq/media/images/428431.jpg>

What happens
after the cancer
is found?



Is there a way to prevent lower GI cancers or catch cancer earlier?

Should I change my diet or take supplements?



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Treatment for Rectal Cancer

Doctors & Treatments for Rectal Cancer



- Which doctors are involved with patients with rectal cancers?
- Which types of treatments are offered by each physician?

Treatments for Rectal Cancer

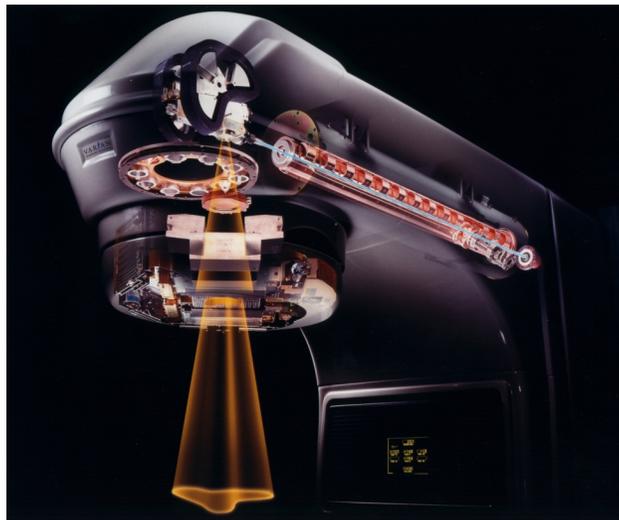
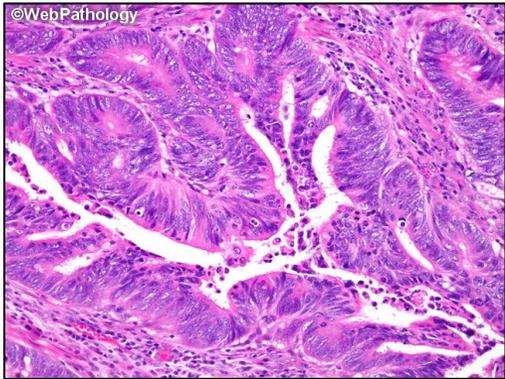
- How do doctors know which treatment(s) is best for me?
- Which treatment is first?

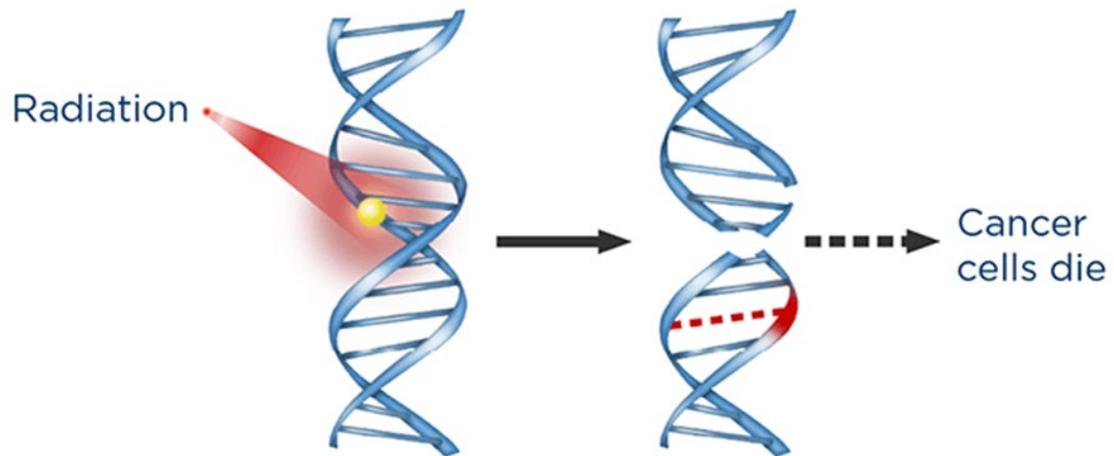




Treatments for Rectal Cancer

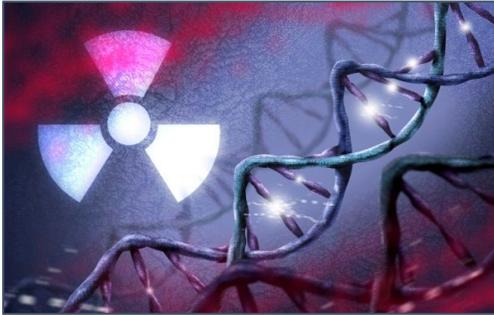
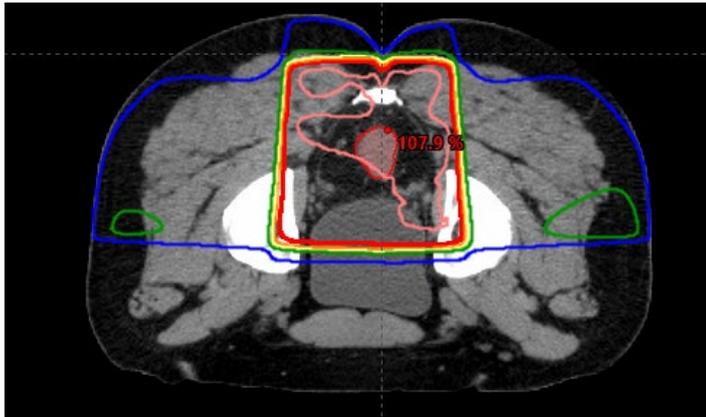
- Does everyone get chemotherapy, radiation and surgery?





Radiation Therapy

- What is radiation therapy?
- How does radiation therapy work?
- How often is radiation therapy given?
 - Why does it need to be given every day?



Radiation Therapy

- Why would patients get 2 treatments at the same time (chemotherapy and radiation therapy)?
 - Does that make side effects worse?
- What if the cancer shrinks?

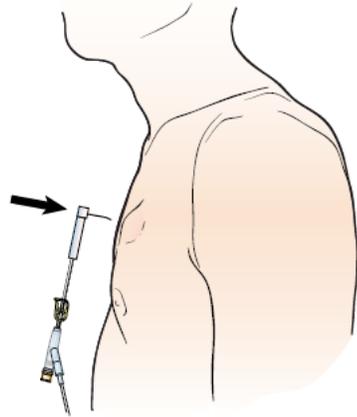
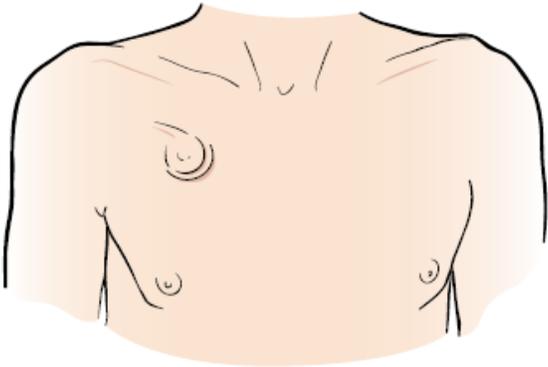
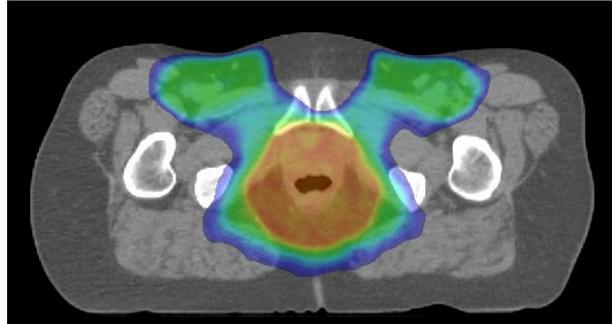


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Treatment for Anal Cancer

Treatment for Anal Cancer

- How is anal cancer treated?
- Why do most patients get chemotherapy and radiation therapy, but not surgery?

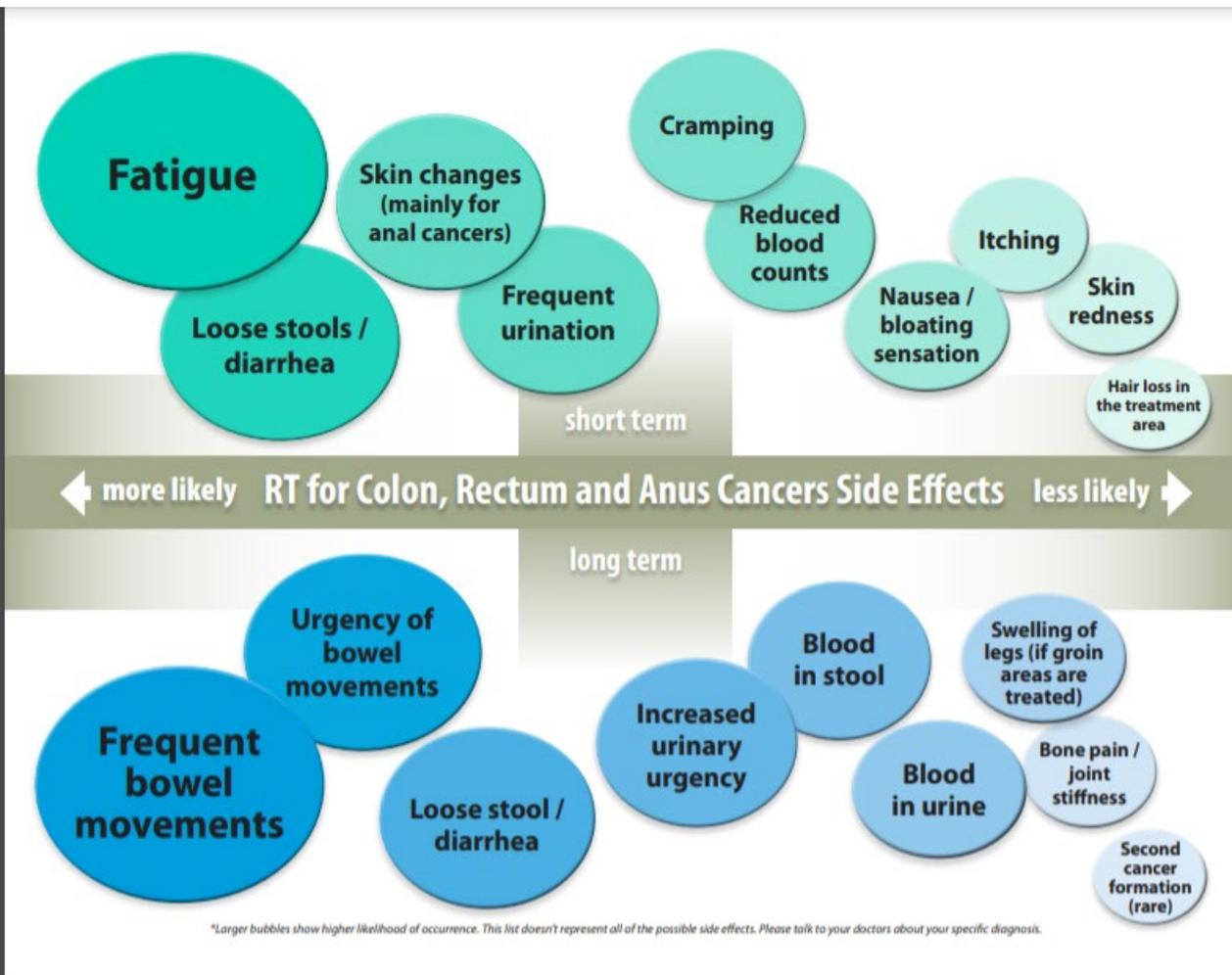


Side Effects

- What types of short-term side effects can be expected from radiation therapy to the pelvis?

- Are there things that can be done to minimize side effects?

- What long-term side effects are associated with treatment?





Radiation Therapy

- How do we know that the treatment is working?
 - What do we check on the tumor?
- What treatment options are available if the cancer returns?
- Can radiation be given more than once?



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Audience Questions & Additional Discussion



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COVID-19



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ASTRO Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination for Cancer Patients Receiving RT

Cancer patients may have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and more severe disease if infected. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19."

mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to people with underlying medical conditions provided they have not had a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the vaccine." These guidelines also apply to cancer patients.

The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines do not include any virus, and there is no risk of contracting the infection from the vaccine. (Cont.)



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ASTRO Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination for Cancer Patients Receiving RT

Patients who have cancer, as well as those who have received treatment for cancer, may be immune compromised, but these patients may still receive COVID-19 vaccines as long as there is no increased risk of reaction to any of the components of the vaccine.

ASTRO encourages cancer patients who are actively receiving treatment such as radiation therapy to consult with their oncologists about the timing for vaccination, injection location and any unique considerations relevant for their treatments. Individuals with a prior history of cancer who are not in active treatment are encouraged to seek vaccination whenever it is made available to them.

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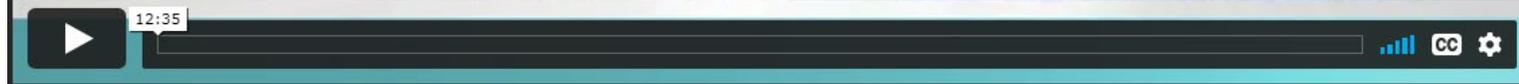
SEARCH

Radiation Therapy for Cancers of the **Colon, Rectum and Anus**



Colorectal cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer in the United States. Radiation therapy is often used to treat these cancers by killing cancer cells while preserving your normal organs. Treatment may also involve surgery and medication. These treatments are customized to each patient depending on location, type and extent of cancer as well as an individual's other medical problems.

ASTRO
TARGETING CANCER CARE





 17:35	 9:36	 9:50
An Introduction to Radiation Therapy 115K views • 4 years ago	Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer 52K views • 4 years ago	Radioterapia para El Cáncer de próstata 5.9K views • 5 months ago
 4:00	 9:57	 11:54
Questions to Ask During Radiation Therapy 2K views • 9 years ago	Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer 1.7K views • 4 years ago	Radioterapia para cancer cerebral 1.2K views • 5 months ago



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ASTRO Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Brain/Spine Cancers RTAnswers

RT Answers Facebook Live Event: March 23, 6 pm-8:30 pm PT



31:55

Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for...

ASTRO Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Cervical Cancers RTAnswers

RT Answers Facebook Live Event: January 26, 7:30 pm-8:45 pm PT



38:47

Ask A Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for...

ASTRO Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Lung Cancer RTAnswers

RT Answers Facebook Live Event: November 30, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm PT



59:24

Ask A Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Lung...

ASTRO Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer RTAnswers

RT Answers Facebook Live Event: September 25, 7:00 pm-8:45 pm PT



59:01

Ask a Radiation Oncologist: Radiation Therapy for...

ASTRO Radiation Therapy for Sarcoma "Ask Me Anything" RTAnswers

RT Answers Facebook Live: July 20, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm PT



1:00:41

Radiation Therapy for Sarcoma AMA

Patient Stories



David Goff

In 2016, while on active duty David Goff began to experience fatigue and later abdominal pain. In 2018, he was officially diagnosed with colon cancer. Read how David and his doctor came to his diagnosis and treatment decisions.

[READ HIS STORY](#)



Thad Lurie

Head and Neck Cancer
Years Diagnosed: 2019
Hometown: Broomfield, Colorado

[MY STORY](#)



Heather Brinkerhoff

Pancreatic Cancer
Years Diagnosed: 2019
Hometown: Menlo Park, California

[MY STORY](#)

More Stories

Patients and caregivers have shared stories of their experience with cancer in order to help other. Read the stories below or [share your story](#).

[Bladder Cancer](#)

[Breast Cancer](#)

[Caregiver](#)

[Colon Cancer](#)

[Head and Neck Cancer](#)

[Lung Cancer](#)

[Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Prostate Cancer](#)

[Sarcoma](#)

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Thank you.



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