

Al Ridgway

Late May to early June on 2012, "I thought" I was going through some ulcer like symptoms. I went to the doctor and he sent me home with a prescription and told me to come back in a couple of weeks. I was not getting better. I started swelling in my ankles and stomach and knew something was wrong. A CT Scan confirmed that my liver was enlarged with tumors. The biopsy said it was unknown primary neuroendocrine. This means they do not know where the cancer came from.

I was declining rapidly and was sent to McKennan in Sioux Falls. They only gave me 2 weeks to live. I was treated with chemo therapy and managed to get out of the hospital 3 weeks later. The chemo was working! Half way thru the chemo regiments, my tumors had shrunk by 75%. By the time I finished my chemo treatments in October, the tumors were 80-85% gone. The doctor was happy with the results.

I went back to work 2 weeks after finishing chemo treatments. Everything was going well for the first few months, but a couple of weeks before my 3 month check up with the doctor, I started to have pains that just were not right. I went into the doctor early and another CT Scan confirmed that the tumors were coming back. Presently, I am getting help Cancer Treatment Center of America (CTCA of Illinois). My cancer is rare and the doctors here did what they could do here. CTCA sees this kind of cancer more than they do around here. Right now I am going thru chemo therapy again with a different battle plan. As of right now, I am feeling as good as you can after chemo treatment, and working 6 hours a day. I am enjoying life with my family day by day.