

Ivan Samuels:

In February 2000 I went to see my GP for my annual physical. I was asked if I would like to have a PSA test done, and I agreed.

I called the GP's office after a week, and was told that everything was OK. My wife Margaret, who works in a doctor's office, asked me to call back and find out what the number was from the PSA.

I was told it was 4.47.

Margaret said I should make another appointment to see my doctor. He said that we should do another PSA test. I asked him, "Why was I told that my test was OK the first time I called his office, if he now thought that we needed to look further into the matter?" He didn't have an answer for me.

The second test came back showing my PSA was 4.92: this time my doctor suggested that I go to see a urologist, I won't mention his name.

In April I had an appointment with this urologist, and he said that he wanted to do a TRUS (Transrectal Ultrasound) and a biopsy. This was done in May 2000.

A few days after the biopsy, I received a phone call at 7:45 in the morning from the urologist, who said, "You have prostate cancer. Call my secretary and make an appointment to see me."

I walked into the other room where my wife was, and she asked me what was the matter. I told her what the doctor had just said, and that I felt like I had been hit over the head with a baseball bat. My Gleason score was 6.

For a few weeks after that phone call, I looked at other men and asked "why me", why not them, which was not a nice thing to think to start with, and the men I looked at may have had prostate cancer as well. It was not until I went to Man to Man, that I realized just how many men suffered from the same disease as me, and that there is life after cancer.

In June I went to see the urologist, and he sent me for a CT bone scan and a chest X-ray. He also said that he would perform a Prostatectomy on me in July. I asked for another opinion, as I wasn't an operation person. He sent me to Sunnybrook Hospital, where I saw Dr. Richard Choo, a Radiology Oncologist – a nicer person one could never meet.

He did some tests, and told me that I was a candidate for Brachytherapy, which are radioactive seeds implanted directly into the prostate gland. On Monday August 28, 2000 I went to Sunnybrook, was given a "saddle block" which freezes you from the waist down, and was implanted with 55 seeds. The procedure took 45 minutes, and I was in the recovery room for about 2 hours before going home.

My PSA has gone down from 4.92 to 0.1.

I feel great and would recommend Brachytherapy to anyone who qualifies for this procedure.

Thank you.