

## **Matt's Story**

My journey began in March 2008 while on a business trip to New York. I was reading a magazine article about a healthy, successful, 45 year old family man who had gone for an Executive Physical exam. The outcome showed that he had cancer. The story startled me.

I was 44 years old, felt great and had just sold my company for a significant amount of money. I was married to the girl of my dreams and we had a beautiful little 2-year-old boy. But I couldn't help but think about that story and wonder, "what if it was me?"

So I had my Assistant research organizations that provided Executive Physicals with multiple body scans like what the man in the article had received. Her research narrowed it down to two. As I read their information, I was intrigued by the many additional things that Executive Medicine of Texas offered that the competition did not. So I called them and spoke to a friendly lady who explained everything they offer.

On the day of my appointment, I just wanted to hear out of the doctor's mouth that I was healthy and in good physical condition. I whizzed through the tests except for the dreaded virtual colonoscopy. But I was thoroughly impressed with the staff and Dr. Anderson was a guy's guy – one you felt comfortable discussing anything with. I was told my results would be back in about three weeks at which time they would schedule a conference with Dr. Anderson to review them face-to-face.

At that conference, he told me I was in excellent condition and health, but that my cholesterol was a bit high. We went over the various scans and told me that they had spotted a mass at the base of my spine. He wanted it evaluated by a specialist, but said it was most likely just cartilage and not unusual. He also explained that there was a one in a million chance that it could be a very rare type of cancerous mass called a Sacral Chordoma. He assured me that it probably wasn't anything to worry about, but referred me to an internal medicine specialist.

I left Dr. Anderson's office feeling pretty good – there was no way I could have that rare bone cancer. I met with the specialist before leaving on vacation in Vail with my wife and our little boy. When I got a message from the doctor, I was sure he was going to say, "All is well." But when we spoke, he told me I need to meet an orthopedic oncologist. Needless to say, we returned home early.

As I sat in the waiting room, I told myself everything was ok. The oncologist said he was convinced that I had the very rare form of malignant bone cancer that Dr. Anderson had spoken of. I needed surgery as soon as possible to remove the tumor, but learned that I was very lucky because this cancer was usually discovered at a much more progressed state. The oncologist emphasized that he felt confident he could remove the entire tumor.

I drove back to my office in a state of shock. I was tormented with thoughts of death and all the things I should have done. I prayed a lot and scheduled the surgery. Then I went into hyper-preparation mode. I reviewed the estate planning my wife and I had done

when I sold the company and drafted letters to my family. All my planning for the worst drove my wife crazy because she wanted to maintain a positive attitude. So the week before surgery, I had party with all of the people in my life whom I loved and cared about.

In the pre-op room, I tried to keep a smile on my face even though I was scared. The next thing I knew I was in the recovery room with my mother and wife telling me everything went great. The doctor had been successful in removing the Sacral Chordoma tumor and the initial pathology tests showed there were no cancer cells in any of the surrounding tissue!

I was released from the hospital eight days later and back on the golf course within a month. With follow up MRIs, I am pleased to report I am cancer free. And if the Good Lord's willing, my life will continue for many healthy years. Catching this cancer when they did probably saved my life. I am forever indebted to Executive Medicine of Texas.