

118 Brain Tumor Drug

May 5, 2008

Intro: Every year more than 21-thousand people in the U.S. are diagnosed with brain cancer. Unfortunately, many of those people will die within a year of diagnosis. But Mayo Clinic doctors are hopeful that a chemotherapy drug approved to fight other types of cancer, may help people with brain cancer live longer, fuller lives.

Video

Total running time

Audio

EVERY TWO WEEKS DAVID ROSE SPENDS THREE HOURS AT MAYO CLINIC RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY FOR A BRAIN TUMOR CALLED A GLIOBLASTOMA. HE STARTED THE EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT ABOUT 9 MONTHS AGO.

David Rose

Brain Cancer Survivor

“THEY SAID THIS IS PRETTY MUCH YOU’RE LAST CHANCE.”
STANDARD TREATMENT:
SURGERY, RADIATION AND OTHER TYPES OF CHEMOTHERAPY WORKED FOR A WHILE, BUT THE TUMOR KEPT COMING BACK.

Kurt Jaeckle, M.D.

Mayo Clinic Neurology

“HIS TUMOR WAS MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE WHEN IT CAME BACK.

David Rose
animation

IT WAS DIVIDING AT A MUCH MORE
RAPID RATE. WE THOUGHT IT WAS
PRETTY MUCH THE END FOR
DAVID AT THAT POINT.”

BUT DR. KURT JAECKLE [**JAY’-**
CULL] SAYS A CHEMOTHERAPY
DRUG CALLED BEVACIZUMAB,
[BEV-AH-SIZ’-UH-MAB] WHICH IS
FDA APPROVED FOR COLON AND
LUNG CANCER, HAS REDUCED
DAVID’S TUMOR TO THE POINT
WHERE YOU CAN’T SEE IT ON AN
MRI.

“IT’S GONE. MY TUMOR’S GONE.”
TUMOR GROWTH DEPENDS ON
BLOOD FLOW FROM NEARBY
VESSELS. THESE VESSELS GROW
INTO THE TUMOR AFTER
RECEIVING A SIGNAL FROM THE
TUMOR. THAT SIGNAL IS A
PROTEIN CALLED VEGF [**VEJ-F**].
THE MEDICATION DAVID RECEIVES
BLOCKS THE VEGF FROM

ATTACHING TO RECEPTORS ON THE BLOOD VESSELS. WITHOUT THE SIGNALS TO GROW, THE TUMOR CAN SHRINK.

David Rose
Brain Cancer Survivor

“IT WENT FROM THE SIZE OF AN ORANGE TO NOTHING.”

THIS DRUG HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE FDA AS A BRAIN CANCER TREATMENT, BUT RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT IT COULD BE EFFECTIVE FOR MORE THAN 50% OF THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT.

Kurt Jaeckle, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Neurology

“THE JURY IS STILL OUT IF THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO PATIENTS LIVING LONGER, STAYING DISEASE-FREE FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. BUT WE’RE ALL EXCITED.”

EXCITED FOR DAVID. WHO’S LIVING A NORMAL LIFE WHILE BATTLING A DEADLY DISEASE. FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

David says the chemo he gets every two weeks can wipe him out for a day or so, but he also says it's a small price to pay for life.

Dr. Jaeckle isn't sure how long David will have to continue the treatments, as this medication is so new in regards to brain cancer. It's still being investigated, and it is not right for all patients with brain cancer. But it may become one more vital weapon in the fight against this deadly disease.

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