

IMI impact on patient involvement | 7 October 2021

Speaker bio



Gary Hooker

Patient

My name is Gary Hooker aged 66. I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer in January 2011 with no symptoms and a prognosis of up to 2 years to live.

I had a PSA of 255 and started off on a hormone treatment called Zoladex followed by bicalutamide. These worked in the short term and reduced my PSA to around 12, but after a few months my level rose sharply to 84. I was taken off bicalutamide and started on Zometa which strengthened the bones against osteoporosis.

In December 2011 I was offered a trial called Prevail which entailed taking a drug called MDV 3100 and was 50/50 drug v placebo. I discussed all the all the information about the trial with my wife and 4 children and decided to join it. After a few months on the drug I felt better and was more energetic, so I hoped that I was on the drug. After several more months on the drug my PSA dropped dramatically and eventually found out I was actually on the drug and it was called Enzalutamide. This drug gave me my life back and a future to look forward to and plan for. Over the next years, despite surviving sepsis, a mini stroke and intense radiotherapy on 3 areas of my spine I have enjoyed a wonderful life. I could not have done this without the support of my family, friends and the exceptional treatment from Guys hospital.

In November 2020 Enzalutamide stopped working effectively and after a PET scan I found out that the cancer had spread through more areas of my lymph system and had an ATM mutation so I tried another trial which was not successful and am now looking forward to having a new treatment plan.

It has now been 10 years 8 months since my diagnosis and I am still standing strong. I now have 3 beautiful grandsons that I never thought I would see and am a very happy man whatever happens next.