



Ralph's Story

Lung Cancer



Ralph has a history of blazing new trails. As an avid equestrian, he has owned many horses and ridden hundreds of trails throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A year and a half ago, at age 67, Ralph was experiencing a constant cough and a heavy feeling in his chest. He went to the doctor expecting to hear he had pneumonia. Instead, he was diagnosed with lung cancer, and told it was inoperable and incurable.

Hearing the news was like “getting hit on the head with a big hammer”, and it changed Ralph’s life in a moment. He knew there would be no more trail riding, and his life was taking him down a different path.

After the initial shock, Ralph decided it was time to fight back. He was referred to Northwest Cancer Specialists by his pulmonologist, and he began to see Dr. Kathryn Kolibaba, who worked with the team of cancer specialists to develop a treatment plan that included chemotherapy and radiation therapy to shrink the size of the tumor. Ralph started his treatment by participating in a clinical trial.

Although he’s not doing any horse riding these days, Ralph is currently receiving a new treatment, his disease has been mostly stable for 10 months, and he says he feels better than he’s felt in 2 years. So far in his cancer treatment, Ralph has taken part in three different research studies, and he believes they are a win-win situation, possibly helping him and helping others.

As he continues his current chemotherapy treatments, which he receives once every three weeks, Ralph is proud that he is helping blaze new trails in cancer care, and hopes his efforts will lead the way to new discoveries and new cures.