

My name is Patti Busch. Approximately six years ago, I had a reoccurring cough. I attributed it to being with my grandchildren who were in school and came to visit often.

In July of 2016 I was putting my grandson down for a nap, patting his back and singing to him. I needed to cough so when I turned away from him and coughed, I felt my rib break. I stayed upstairs for a while and then went down to my family including our daughter and grandchildren who were visiting from Seattle. I told them I thought I had broken my rib. My husband, Buddy, wanted me to go get my rib checked. I told him that they wouldn't do anything for a broken rib.

The next day, our daughter and family were scheduled to fly home. I was so uncomfortable that I didn't go with them...very unlike me. When Buddy came home, he again encouraged me to go to urgent care. We went to the urgent care associated with our local hospital. The x-ray showed that I did have a broken rib but there was a much bigger problem - there was a large tumor in the right middle lobe of my lung. Needless to say, we were stunned by this news. I had lived a healthy life, had never smoked or been around second hand smoke. Our minds were swirling, unable to comprehend what we had just heard. They sent us to the local emergency room where they did a CT scan. The emergency doctor confirmed that there was a tumor, probably malignant, and made an appointment with a pulmonologist.

The pulmonologist was leaving for vacation in a few days but pulled together a team to do a biopsy which confirmed that I had non small cell lung cancer. He told us that they could treat me there with surgery but that there were other specialty treatment centers that we could consider. Buddy found that OSU has a highly rated lung cancer treatment and research.

I did not know if I would live to see our son's wedding or our grandson's graduation.

The pulmonologist referred me to the surgical team at OSU. The tumor board determined that the tumor had metastasized to my chest wall . A bioMarker test was done to determine if the lung cancer had genetic mutations. The biopsy results showed that the tumor had an EGFR mutation.

I was referred to my medical oncologist who prescribed a targeted oral chemo pill, Tarceva, that I took once daily with very minimal side effects. I was on that treatment for nine months. Another bioMarker test was done and I began a clinical trial with a combination of Tagrisso and Navitoclax, also targeted once daily pills, that have minimal side effects.

I am still taking Tagrisso daily. The biomarker testing has allowed me to live a very active life without the devastating effects of surgery or chemotherapy.