I'm cancer – a word no one wants to hear – a diagnosis no one wants to have. There's a lot you don't know about me; how I move; where I strike; I start when cells become altered and grow out of control. It's getting harder for me to be around with the advancements in detection and treatment.

Take Jane, for example. She is a healthy, middle-aged woman. She had no idea I was growing in her as a malignant tumor, because I caused her no pain. I went undetected for months. By the time she was referred to an oncologist, I had metastasized to other organs. They saw me from an MRI and immediately were staging me. Her doctors went after me aggressively. She had a port placed under her skin to put medicine into the bloodstream. She just got tired easily. She's tough, that Jane. Now I'm leaving her alone. She'll need to be watched very closely. If I come back, she may need immunotherapy. Knowing Jane, she'd participate in clinical trials. Her daughter has agreed to genetic testing.

Jeff found me much faster. I was in his lungs, making it hard for him to breathe. He went to his family doctor, someone who knew Jeff and his health history. That doctor ordered a lot of tests, including blood work and scans. The doctor found a tumor and performed a needle biopsy. They found me quickly and operated to get me out of his lung. They even tested the area around the tumor and lymph nodes. The surgeon sent what was removed to the pathologist. The margins and lymph nodes were negative for cancer. Jeff didn't need chemotherapy or radiation. The doctors made Jeff use them and use CT scans to watch for any signs that I've returned.

**TERMS**

**MALIGNANT TUMOR**
A tumor is an abnormal lump or mass of tissue if it contains cancer cells, it is malignant.

**ONCOLOGIST**
Doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

**METASTASIZED**
Spread of cancer cells from the original site to one or more sites elsewhere in the body.

**STAGING**
The process of finding out whether cancer has spread and if so, how far. There is more than one system for staging different types of cancer.

**PORT**
A device placed under the skin to put medicine into the bloodstream.

**NEEDLE BIOPSY**
A procedure to remove fluid, cells or tissue with a needle to test for the existence of cancer.

**IMMUNOTHERAPY**
A form of treatment that uses the body's immune system to fight cancer.

**PATHOLOGIST**
Doctor who specializes in the examination of tissue and blood samples to diagnose disease.

**MARGINS**
The tissue beyond the visible edge of the tumor or abnormal tissue that is removed with the tumor or abnormality, in an effort to get all the cancer.

**CHEMOTHERAPY**
A form of treatment, sometimes referred to as "chemo," that uses drugs to destroy cancer cells.

**RADIATION**
A form of treatment that uses precise high energy rays to destroy cancer cells and shrink tumors.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**
Voluntary participation to test new drugs or procedures to develop treatment for serious diseases.

**GENETIC TESTING**
Tests that can be done to see if a person has certain gene changes known to increase cancer risks, or to direct treatment options. It's recommended for people with a family history of certain types of cancer.

Clinical trials, immunotherapy, chemo, radiation – I'm under attack.