

KN CKOUT CANCER



GOLF *Tournament*



**BENEFIT FOR:
JACK DIRAIMO**
.....
April 24, 2023
6235 Pinelakes Blvd
Spring, TX 77379
.....

Entry \$500/Team
Entry \$125/Single
Sponsor Hole \$125

**PRIZES &
GIVEAWAYS**

Payment Deadline:
April 5, 2023
Zelle: russ.diraimo@gmail.com

Russell DiRaimo
@KnockoutCancer-JackDiRaimo



venmo

Russell DiRaimo
Call: +832 622 8537

8:00 AM SHOTGUN START



SYNOVIAL SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

What is synovial sarcoma?

Synovial sarcoma is a cancer that can come from different types of soft tissue, such as muscle or ligaments. It is often found in the arm, leg, or foot, and near joints such as the wrist or ankle. It can also form in soft tissues in the lung or abdomen. One third of patients with synovial sarcoma will be diagnosed under the age of 30. It is somewhat more common in males.

How common is synovial sarcoma?

Synovial sarcoma accounts for 5% to 10% of soft-tissue tumors. For every one million people, one to two are diagnosed with synovial sarcoma per year in the US.

How is synovial sarcoma diagnosed?

The symptoms caused by synovial sarcoma depend on where the tumor forms. Synovial sarcoma is often first noticed as a painless lump. If it is near a nerve, it might cause pain or numbness as it grows.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Why is it so important for Cancer Patients?

Blood and Platelet donations have been essential for mine and others survival and continuing of treatment. I have personally received over 40 blood transfusions and over 30 platelet transfusions throughout my journey, with possibly more to come.

Where to Donate?

Local blood bank or blood drives OR MD Anderson Centers (Katy, Woodlands, Downtown and Clear Lake)



MY STORY

Jack and Sandra's journey started when they moved back from Florida. This transfer was something they pushed for to be back home. They did not know what was in front of them at the time. They moved back in December of 2019 after being in Florida for three years. They were transferred to the Deer Park facility, so they decided to stay in East Downtown in a townhome community due to the easy commute and lively entertainment. As they ventured around attending events and enjoying their new home, they did not see what was about to head their way. Jack had to take Sandra's car in to get checked. This two-seater was slim and low to the ground, so when Jack was getting back into the car, he felt severe pain on his right side (near the kidney). He did not think much of it at the time, but three days later he was having stomach pains and fevers, so they decided to go to the ER. The same day (February 28, 2020) that they went to the ER was the same day the water line pipe burst by 610 and shut most of the city water down. Oddly enough this was also when the Doctor came in and told them they are not going home as Jack has a bleeding mass near his kidney, the size of a softball. They were taken in an ambulance to Methodist Hospital due to having a 24-hour surgical oncologist on staff, if needed. On an early spring morning (March 4, 2020) the surgery began but hit some snags as three surgical teams were needed, hours more of surgery, three units of blood loss, punctured diaphragm, deflated lung and 32 staples were needed to remove the large mass. Jack recovered well as his family watched the Covid news in the hospital. Upon release on March 8, 2020, they were grateful as the next day Covid shut down all visitation rights. The surgeon did have a discussion with the family and discussed this was Cancer, a very rare one indeed, and all his information and tumor were already sent to MD Anderson for further analysis. The diagnosis was Metastatic Synovial Soft Tissue Sarcoma – Stage IV (1 in 3 million) as the tumor cells showed signs of spreading to the lungs and other organs. Treatment was delayed due to the risks of Covid, so Jack started an oral Chemotherapy (Votrient) which showed signs of working. In August of 2020, the decision was made to start Chemotherapy with Doxorubicin and Ifosfamide (two very harsh Chemo drugs). After four cycles, Jack's bone marrow could not take any more treatment, so he was sent off to recover with no treatment for 6 months. After a while, a small tumor started growing, so the decision was to perform a procedure called Cryoablation (freezing the tumor to kill it). This procedure worked temporarily but months later, the Cancer grew back, so the decision was to go back to Votrient again. All was well as Jack returned to work (remotely) and resumed golfing, traveling and spending lovely time with his Wife and caregiver, Sandra. The Cancer started showing signs of coming back at the start of 2022 (January) so the decision was to try a Trial Drug in Phase 1 called FHD-609, specifically for Synovial Soft Tissue Sarcoma. This was the first for human trials and they were excited to see if this was a game changer. After three months, the CT scans showed quite the opposite as Jack's Cancer grew 80% from where it was, so immediately the decision was to get off the trial and get back on Votrient. This set back was just part of the Cancer journey, so they understood and saddled up for the next path. Votrient, again, showed signs of slowing down as it reduced the growth but not to what the Doctors wanted. The decision was to start Chemotherapy, just Ifosfamide this time, and would try for six rounds. Where they stand today, upon completion of Round 4 on Christmas Eve of 2022, is to stop treatment and let Jack's bone marrow recover naturally. As Sandra and Jack do not know the current path forward, they remain optimistic and grateful for every day as well as the treatment Jack has received to stand here today. They will enjoy the break and continue this path forward leaning on their support and faith, as well as being thankful for everyone out there hoping and fighting to "Knockout Cancer".