

Keith's Story:

HOPE, HELP, AND THE TEST THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

Keith Taggart has always relied on his positive attitude to tackle life's challenges. But from 2014, when he was diagnosed with salivary gland cancer, to 2017, when he was told he had less than a month to live, that positive attitude was forced into overdrive.

When he first found a pea-sized tumor in his mouth and the dentist was able to quickly remove it without anesthesia, Keith figured it was no big deal, even after it was biopsied and found to be cancerous. But the cancer soon began to spread, so he was given high-dose radiation treatment.



Over time, Keith's cancer spread to his neck, chest, shoulders, arms, kidneys, liver, and lungs.

He also had many surgeries (15 in total). The cancer was so aggressive, it seemed as if as soon as his surgeon removed

a tumor, a new one would appear. Over time, it spread to his neck, chest, shoulders, arms, kidneys, liver, and lungs. At this point, Keith was told that chemotherapy would buy him 3 to 4 more weeks to live.

Even with all he had been through, Keith somehow maintained a positive attitude. Meanwhile, his partner, Greg, was having a harder time with Keith's prognosis, and convinced him to visit a major cancer center in another state.

This is when everything changed.

While there, Keith's doctor suggested he get genomic cancer testing, a type of testing that can reveal which gene alterations might be causing the cancer.



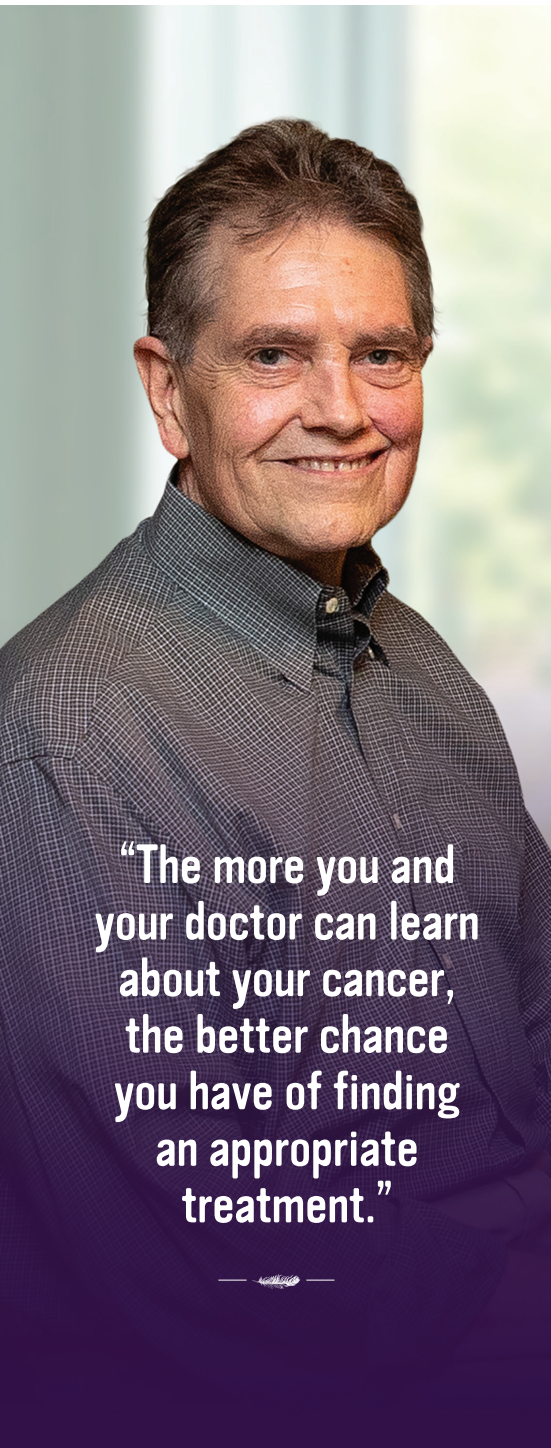
Once the results came in, Keith's doctor discovered that his cancer was called TRK fusion cancer. With this knowledge, they were able to enroll Keith in a clinical trial for his type of cancer.

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NTRK3

NTRK1

NTRK2



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Soon after entering the trial, Keith began to feel better and his doctors began to see results. Today, his cancer is still under control. Keith continues to manage a real estate office, practices real estate law, and sings in his church choir. His hobbies include falconing, hunting, and spending time with Greg, their family and friends, and their beloved pets (2 dogs and 4 falcons). He’s also pursuing his newfound passion of raising awareness about genomic cancer testing.

Keith’s experience wasn’t the only good thing that came out of his genomic cancer testing.

The clinical trial administrator told him that his case inspired the center to make genomic cancer testing part of their protocol. It also inspired Keith to share his story with as many people as possible, through media appearances, cancer events, and word-of-mouth.

“Genomic cancer testing saved my life. But I never knew it existed until my doctor told me about it. If I can educate other people about it, I can help others that are in the

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same situation I was. That’s huge. That makes this whole experience worthwhile.”

While not every cancer story is the same, Keith was right to be optimistic. But he’s quick to point out that staying positive is only half of the equation—you also have to do your homework.

“Hope is a powerful thing. But you need to couple that with information. The more you and your doctor can learn about your cancer, the better chance you have of finding an appropriate treatment.”