Defeated Vestibular Schwannoma

EVERARD G.
Retired Army Veteran,
Family Farm Owner
Everard, a retired veteran, family farmer and a two-time survivor of cancer, was extremely frustrated when he began to lose hearing in his right ear.

ENT specialists at Madigan Army Medical Center diagnosed him with Acoustic Neuroma. A slow growing, benign tumor that was pressing against a nerve in his ear canal. The first course of action was to monitor its progression. However, once the tumor began to grow, his physicians determined it was best to perform traditional surgery to remove it.

The results of surgery did not last as long as he or his physicians had hoped. Everard began to notice further hearing loss, and his eye and lip began to droop. He was plagued by a dizziness that made walking in a straight line almost impossible. His doctors ordered a CT Scan and found the tumor was growing. That’s when his doctors suggested Gamma Knife® radiosurgery, where individual low-level beams of radiation, too weak to damage healthy tissue, would converge and kill his growing tumor.

Everard’s Gamma Knife treatment was a single day, outpatient procedure. On the day of treatment, Everard arrived early and was given a gown and fitted for the Gamma Knife head frame. The frame ensures only the intended targeted area is treated and healthy tissue remains intact.

“Next they took me to the treatment room and I was astonished that the Gamma Knife looked like an MRI machine. The doctors reassured me that they could talk to me anytime during surgery, but unlike the noisiness of an MRI, Gamma Knife was so quiet, I fell asleep!”

Within a couple of months, Everard was walking straight again. And post-procedure scans show that his tumor has stopped growing.

“Gamma Knife was such an easy choice. With the first surgery, my head was shaved and surgically opened. I spent a week in the hospital and couldn’t do anything for weeks to follow. With Gamma Knife, I was back working around the house and on the farm the very next day.”

Everard credits his family and faith as key to his health and well-being. At the time of this story, he and his wife are preparing to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary, Everard!

For more information on the benefits of Gamma Knife® visit gammaknife.com