

“A Tattoo Saved My Life!”



Donald Stinson of Owosso and his Memorial radiation oncologist, Hesham Gayar, M.D.

Each patient treated at the Memorial Cancer Center represents a face of amazing courage and a source of inspiration for the staff and physicians at the Memorial Cancer Center.

For Donald Stinson, of Owosso, his battle against prostate cancer is an all too familiar one and has been marked by the usual bouts of fear and many tears. Don’s sense of humor, however, doesn’t keep his emotions at a low point for very long. He uses humor and his positive attitude to joke about how he came by his very first and only tattoo (the result of the radiation therapy received to combat his cancer).

Don credits his successful battle, to date, to the experts he sees on a regular basis at the Memorial Cancer Center and his daily visits for radiation therapy at the Great Lakes Cancer Institute at



A small tattoo is used as a guide to focus radiation treatment.

Memorial. He has left a lasting impression on his cancer team, including his radiation oncologist, **Hesham Gayar, M.D.**, the radiation therapy team and on other cancer patients.

“For me,” says Don, “surgery wasn’t the best option, so I was set up to receive 45 radiation treatments spread over 9 weeks.”

According to Dr. Gayar, “At Memorial we treat the patient, not the cancer. We pay attention to the needs of patients, like Don, to meet their individualized needs.”

“Being able to have my therapy here in Owosso was great news. My wife, Diane, and I didn’t have to worry about slippery roads back in March, which was a relief,” says Don.

Don works at Meijer in Corunna and says that he tells anyone who asks about his health how important it is to follow up on

medical tests and results. “If your blood levels are elevated, even a little bit like my PSA was, be sure to get answers to your questions about why and what the results mean,” says Don. “I have always appreciated how thorough the team at Memorial is when explaining everything to me and my wife. It has been a great benefit for me to come to a facility that has state-of-the-art equipment. We’ve met so many friendly people who work here. The whole place and the people make each visit an outstanding experience.”

Today, Don is looking forward to spending time on his two favorite past times – golf and fishing. ♠

If you or someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, the Memorial Healthcare Cancer Center is equipped to provide advanced chemotherapy, infusion, and blood disorder treatments. Oncology radiation is also available in Owosso. For more information about the Cancer Center, visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org or call 989-729-HOPE (4673).

Early Detection is Key

Prostate cancer can often be found early by testing the amount of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in the blood. Another way to detect prostate cancer is the digital rectal exam (DRE).

Prostate Cancer Screening Guidelines:
PSA and DRE testing is recommended for men

- by age 50
- by age 40 for those at high-risk, such as African-American men or men with a family history of prostate cancer

Talk with your doctor to determine if you should be screened for prostate cancer.