

MSK Direct

The Value and Impact of Subspecialized Expert Medical Opinions

Anyone facing cancer requires an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan as early as possible. MSK Direct provides support through expanded access to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's (MSK) subspecialized cancer experts, who can precisely identify someone's cancer type and recommend a treatment plan that is right for each patient.

Expert medical opinions can be easily accessed through MSK Direct, helping employees impacted by cancer make informed, confident decisions about their care. Simply call the MSK Direct dedicated phone line or initiate through the MSK Direct app (launching soon).

Key results from MSK's expert medical opinion study

A recent MSK study published in *Cancer Medicine*¹ demonstrated significant improvements in survival and quality of life resulting from an MSK expert medical opinion.

1 in 3 patients

Received a meaningful change in treatment, in some cases caused by a change in diagnosis. Every one of these patients had improvement in quality of life, usually from de-escalating treatment intensity. Some of these patients also had improvement in survival by having a better treatment plan.

1 in 5 patients

Avoided unnecessary surgical treatment harm and costs. In other words, 1 in 5 patients had de-escalation of surgical treatment intensity, either by doing less surgery or no surgery at all, while maintaining the same survival or improving it.

1 in 10 patients

Avoided harmful and costly treatment altogether. This means that 1 in 10 patients had de-escalation of treatment all the way to an active surveillance approach.

1. © 2023 Allison Lipitz-Snyderman, Susan Chimonas, Sham Mailankody, Michelle Kim, Nicholas Silva, Anuja Kriplani, Leonard B. Saltz, Smita Sihag, Carlyn Rose Tan, Maria Widmar, Marjorie Zauderer, Saul Weingart, Wendy Perchick, Benjamin R. Roman. *Cancer Medicine* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd. Clinical value of second opinions in oncology: A retrospective review of changes in diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Scan the QR code to read the study



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Expert medical opinions include:

Customized Care Plans and Collaborative Case Review. Detailed, personalized care plans created by MSK's subspecialized medical, surgical and radiation oncologists are shared with each patient and their treating physician to address diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Precision Diagnostics. Original pathology and radiology review by MSK's subspecialized experts to improve accuracy and consistency in comprehensive diagnoses.

Genomic Sequencing and Analysis of Cancer. MSK's genomic and clinical experts detect mutations and critical changes in the genes of cancers to quickly match patients to the best available therapies.

A Patient Story: Expert Medical Opinion through MSK Direct

Age: 62 years old

Location: Virginia

Original Diagnosis: Stage IV, high-grade bladder cancer, metastatic to spine and lung

Original Treatment Recommendation:
Palliative chemotherapy

Support: Expert medical opinion through MSK Direct

Major change in diagnosis

- A team of MSK subspecialized pathologists, radiologists, and medical oncologists determined the bladder cancer to be low grade, with spinal and lung lesions benign

Major change in treatment plan

- Low-grade, non-metastatic, non-muscle invasive bladder cancer is best managed with active surveillance

Major improvement in outcomes

- Avoidance of toxic chemotherapy, leading to improved quality of life, and possibly improved survival
- Reduced out-of-pocket costs and fewer missed days of work

Connect with us:

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About MSK Direct: MSK Direct is a national employer cancer benefits solution providing over 6 million members and their families with equitable, personalized access to the lifesaving discoveries and subspecialized expertise of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK).



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