

My name is Ed Mulcahey. I am a 54 year old patient of Dr. Dhiren Dave of Somerset Urological Associates.

I have a family history that includes prostate cancer. My cousin was diagnosed with the disease over 20 years ago. He made the right choice and faced it head on and had a radical prostatectomy with the traditional surgical method that was available at the time. He led a normal life after the surgery. Conversely, my father, despite my relentless efforts, chose to ignore his increasing PSA levels. His choice proved to be very painful one for himself and for me, his only child. It led to his demise.

Our family doctor and I monitored my PSA levels closely once I reached the age of 40. When it reached 4.3 he insisted that I should make an appointment with an urologist. My wife (who is a registered nurse) gave me some valuable advice. She told me to do my research, which I did extensively. I sought out a group with doctors who graduated from our country's leading medical schools, and had the residency experience at renowned medical institutions. This research led me to Somerset Urological Associates. After my initial consultation, and examination of my test result, Dr. Harmon scheduled an appointment for a biopsy. I had always heard that it was a difficult thing to experience. Much to my surprise, it was one of the easiest medical procedures I have ever experienced. It was a procedure lasting less than 30 minutes, which included some minimal discomfort. When the biopsy was complete, I went back to my office and worked until 10:30 that evening.

My next appointment with Dr. Harmon resulted in a discussion of my test results. He informed me that a large portion of my prostate tested positive for cancer. We then went on to discuss the treatment options. Once again, I did my research and weighed the various treatment options. My two adult sons stressed their feelings that since the prostate was cancerous, it was important to have it removed. This made the decision an easy one, because I shared their view, which was consistent with the recommendation of Dr. Harmon.

Dr. Harmon told me that he was not the member of their group that performed the robotic radical prostatectomy, utilizing the di Vinci method. It would be done by his associate Dr. Dhiren Dave. Again, I had done my research, and was extremely impressed with Dr. Dave's medical education and residency experience. In addition, he had a fellowship with a surgeon in the Pacific Northwest, that had performed thousand of these procedures. An appointment was then scheduled for me with Dr. Dave. I already felt good about his background, but after the consultation, my confidence in my decision continued to grow. The first word that comes to mind when I describe Dr. Dave is dynamic. I felt fully prepared for the surgery, as his ability to describe the procedure was a calming influence. He handled my concerns and questions flawlessly. We agreed on a surgery date.

As the day drew near, the staff was very attentive. Joan McSpritt was involved, interfacing with my general practitioners office, and assuring that I observed all of the necessary preparation details prior to my surgery. She was instrumental in creating a positive atmosphere, as my surgery was drawing near.

The hospital that the medical group is associated with is also an important factor. Somerset Medical Center proved to be another valuable piece of this process. I could not have asked for more in a hospital. They put me at ease, while admitting me and getting me up to the floor for surgery. A nurse was tending to some last minute details with my 20 year old son at my side. Dr. Dave entered the room. He introduced himself to my son Kevin. He then shook my hand, and asked me how I was doing. I said I could not be in a better frame mind and I have a tremendous amount of confidence in you. It doesn't get any better than that, I said.

Dr. Dave encourage me to familiarize myself with the equipment he would use, which I did. This was also very important, because when I was transported into the operating room, the surroundings were familiar. I was as ready as anyone could be. Between four and five hours later I was awakened with my other Son, 25 year old Dan at my side. The next morning I was on my way home. I probably could have been back to work four days later, but my company wanted to assure that I did not return until I was ready. The pathology report came back revealing that 75% of my prostate was cancerous. I had the aggressive strain that I unfortunately saw consume a friend ten years ago. When it was clear that it was too late for him he made me promise that if I was ever diagnosed with this disease that I would take aggressive action.

Within a few months, I was playing golf and back to doing pull ups and chin ups. In addition, I had some concerns because my particular condition required the taking of some nerve tissue. This initially had me concerned, but because of my utmost trust in Dr. Dave, I followed his lead and agreed to what he recommended. It is just over a year now, and I have the function in both categories that concern men the most with respect to this procedure. Everyone in my family, friends, and co-workers cannot believe how healthy I look. My energy level is fantastic and I am driving the ball as far as ever on the golf course. Dr. Dave just pushed my quarterly appointment out to every six months. During my May 31st appointment. My PSA readings have consistently registered as inconsequential. Thank you again, Dr. Dave.

A few months after I had my surgery, a business associate of mine told me that her husband was experiencing high PSA readings. I immediately told her about Dr. Dave and the tremendous experience that I had recently had. I went on to say that I would be more that pleased to speak to her husband about his condition and what I had learned about the disease first hand. I saw them both at a meeting several weeks later. I did not want to be overbearing, and chose to sit back and let the gentleman come to me if he wished to discuss the matter. He did. When we finished speaking, he said that I had made him feel considerably better about

the situation. He said he was amazed with our discussion, because a smile never left my face during the entire time of our interaction.

I cannot say enough about Dr. Dave. In my opinion, he is a gift from God. I pray for his well being. I have and will continue to recommend him to any man who may be facing this disease. I have always been one to provide a firm handshake, but when I shook Dr. Dave's had recently, I eased up saying, those are important hands that we must protect and take care of. These hands have saved many lives of many and positively affected many more.