

Survivor Stories: Annette's Lessons

CTOAM Connects You to the World and a World of Options

He's basing his decisions on this tumor and getting rid of this tumor. Like he knows what's in it. He knows what it's made of. He knows resources around the world that he can connect us with. If it doesn't-- we right from the beginning he said, "You know you can go to India and we can get some off-label something or other. Like he's really opening up the world to us. So we knew that, this is your first path. But right from the beginning we knew we could be going to India. Like there's, there's 10 paths we can take. So he's going to-- we're going to go down this first one. If that doesn't work, we're going to go down the next one. If that doesn't work, we're going to go down the next one. And so I think knowing that he was so smart and that he was had all these resources, just really helped us to know that there's more than one healthcare system.

I think here in Canada, we're very used to having our one healthcare system and working within it. He just really opened up the world. It's like, oh yeah, India, why not right? Who knew that could be an option down the road. But we would have gone if that was our 6th option. Then we would have gone to India and gotten some kind of-- and I knew he would have helped us. His medical travel agent; whoever knew there was a medical travel agent. Like I didn't even know that that was a thing. I've never even heard of it before. So he connected us up and not only-- you know, we need to get this cancer treatment or this test done, here's someone who's going to help you figure out how to do it.

And same with my PET scan. I had to get it done in the States. How on earth do you start organizing a PET CT in the States? I don't know. I haven't got a hot clue. So she organized it all for us. I showed up and they knew who I was and I got my scan and I left. And it was-- on top of all the stress that you're dealing with it was very helpful to have those other people involved that are helping you along because you're the core of it. But you'd need the people on your side and he's very well connected. So it was super helpful.