

How Dr Matthew Bui saved me from prostate cancer

After blood tests before a routine surgical procedure, my GP called to say I had a raised PSA of 4.3. At the time it meant nothing to me, a sixty-two-year-old in otherwise good health. Proteins produced by my prostate were slightly above normal and so he recommended I go see his colleague oncologist Dr Matthew Bui since I might be at risk for prostate cancer. When I got to Tower Oncology a few weeks later Dr Bui now measured my PSA at 7.15. He recommended an investigative biopsy. Dr Bui felt there was only a slight chance I would have cancer. However statistics were against me. He discovered 5% cancer in my prostate.

Dr Bui offered me three options:

- 1) Do nothing and simply observe the condition going forward to see if there was any change.
- 2) Insert radiation pellets which would radiate the area to suppress the cancer but only last twelve years. After that the cancer might return but now be inoperable because of scar tissue from the radiation.
- 3) Remove the prostate by surgery.

I was particularly upset to discover I had prostate cancer because I had survived stomach cancer ten years earlier. That experience was awful. My entire stomach was removed. I had radiation therapy on my abdomen for six weeks, chemotherapy for a year and lost a hundred pounds in weight. I was traumatized to discover I now had to go through another cancer experience.

However Dr Bui has the most wonderful bedside manner. He's kind and empathetic. By carefully explaining the unavoidable risks he successfully calmed me down and reassured me that everything would work out.

The biggest concerns around prostate surgery are being left incontinent or impotent. With that in mind, Dr Bui showed me how the surgery works.

Using small robotic instruments with minimal intrusion he would be able to peel back the nerves surrounding the prostate before removing it. Dealing with the nerves, he explained, is the most momentous part of the procedure regarding subsequent recovery. If the cancer has developed too far it will surround the nerves making their movement much trickier. If he had to scrape the nerves to remove cancer that is the most likely to lead to incontinence or impotence.

He felt he had found my cancer early and so my procedure for removal would most likely be successful with minimal complication. So I elected to have my prostate removed. My stomach had successfully been removed a decade before (it turns out you don't really need one!) so I felt ok about removing another organ, especially if it carried cancer.

Furthermore Dr Bui has carried out thousands of these procedures. The prospect for full recovery around incontinence and impotence is very much dependent on the skill and experience of the surgeon. My GP had found me a first-class team to treat my stomach cancer ten years before. And now he had sent me to Matthew for my prostate. Matthew's personal style is self-evidently reassuring. My GP's recommendation was the cherry on the cake. That's why I had confidence. And it turned out to be very well-placed.

The procedure was done in a morning at Cedars Sinai where I stayed in for one night. Dr Bui's prediction that I would feel exponentially better with each passing day afterwards was correct. At first I was quite sore and walking was a trial but within a week things were pretty normal. Two weeks later I was completely fine. Now, nine months afterwards, I've forgotten all about it. The only reminders are some small fading scars on my abdomen.

The catheter was removed a few days after the procedure and then I had to wear diapers as my peeing was completely uncontrollable. The diapers turned out to be completely effective, easy to obtain and there was no leakage or smell. I went to business meetings in them without even thinking about it.

A couple of weeks after the operation I returned to Dr Bui's office for further blood test results. My PSA was now undetectable and Matthew declared

me cured of prostate cancer! Of course I was relieved and absolutely thrilled.

About three weeks after that I suddenly got back complete bladder control. Now I pee like an eighteen-year old. I never have to get up in the middle of the night any more. I now realize that for decades my peeing has been restricted and dysfunctional. Now it's like Niagara Falls down there whenever I decide to go pee. It's always my decision and I'm never caught short.

I got a self-induced partial erection a couple of days after the operation. I later discovered cialis, recommended by Dr Bui, to be very effective for a full erection. Viagra is nasty stuff by comparison and gives me a pounding headache. Cilais is gentle, has no noticeable side-effects and produces a natural and very robust result.

I have a lovely new girlfriend who I met recently at a high school reunion. We were reunited after a gap of forty-three years. We are both sixty two years old and she can attest to Matthew's acumen as a surgeon. In bed I am reminded of my college days. The sexual part is amazing, especially between two mature adults who love each other.

So it is with great pleasure I recommend Dr Matthew Bui. He led me safely through every step of my journey with prostate cancer and under whose care I continue to have regular check ups. He saved my life and gave me a new one that was physically better than the one I had before.

Thank you Matthew from the bottom of my heart.

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