

In January 2019 I was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer. I was on active chemo for a total of three years. Being on the type of chemo I was on for that long had risks including cardiac which is something I did not have any prior issue with.

12/23/2020 I presented to Fairfax Inova ED for a sudden onset severe headache with intense nausea, vomiting and inability to speak due to head pain. I could not function. Medications at the time included chemo drugs Avastin and Lynparza which, again, a side effect was potential for high blood pressure. Upon arrival in the ED triage I recall my blood pressure being over 200 though I do not have record of that. I was administered IV Benadryl, compazine and magnesium which almost immediately made me sedated but still alert. This protocol helped resolve the acute symptoms. The key turning point in my plan of care was that I was also given a chest X-ray which showed fluid in my lungs. This diagnostic report was used to redirect my acute care from a chemo-related cardiac condition to a suspected COVID-19 diagnosis which it was absolutely not. My symptoms of vomiting, headache and fluid in the lungs were used to fabricate a false diagnosis which could have had potentially life threatening consequences. I vividly recall the ED dr telling me I was being admitted as a suspected Covid patient and not as a cardiac patient due to the fluid in my lungs. Despite understanding his words, I found myself unable to respond in my sedated state. I could only mumble “No, it’s heart-related...It’s chemotherapy-related... I am a cancer patient...Please...nooooo”

I woke up hours later alone and isolated in a zero pressure room on a Covid floor. Not a cardiac floor. Not an oncology floor. Someone in a bee keeper suit came in and told me where I was and that the doctor was waiting for a Covid test to come back in order for me to get a cardiac work up. It never happened. The test never came back. Here I was a cancer patient on chemo with chemo related high blood pressure high enough to cause the headache of my life that could have led to a stroke or worse. And because of monetary rewards for Covid status my care was compromised.

A physician takes an oath and promises ethical medical practice. The traumatizing, abusive care I suffered put quite a torpedo thru my trust in the medical community. This care was absolutely not patient first. It was greed first, patient last.