



# **“Delayed Cancer Diagnosis: Why?”**

*A Survey by*

**The Ronnie Lippin / Tower Cancer Research Foundation**

*and*

**The Dohring Company**

**May 8, 2008**

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## **Study Objective**

The primary objective of this study was to identify any causes of delay of correct diagnosis of cancer.

## **Research Methodology**

The Dohring Company, using its MarketSurveys.com online survey panel, sent email invites to a sampling of male and female panelists residing in the US inviting them to participate in an online survey about cancer and cancer care. Only respondents who have been diagnosed with cancer qualified to participate in this survey. A total of 500 qualified respondents completed the survey. Surveys were conducted during the period from February 22, 2008 through March 3, 2008. Survey responses were then tabulated and the data was summarized.

The total number of respondents for this study was 500 – 132 male respondents and 368 female respondents. The margin of error for results overall is  $\pm 4.5\%$ .

The survey instrument used for this survey was comprised of 29 questions and took respondents approximately 15 minutes to complete.

## Results

Have you ever been diagnosed with any form of cancer?

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Yes	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
No	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

With which form(s) of cancer have you ever been diagnosed? (Please check all that apply)

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Cervical cancer	0.0%	29.6%	21.8%
Skin cancer (non-melanoma)	34.1%	16.6%	21.2%
Breast cancer	1.5%	23.9%	18.0%
Skin cancer (melanoma)	19.7%	9.8%	12.4%
Thyroid cancer	0.8%	7.3%	5.6%
Prostate cancer	19.7%	0.0%	5.2%
Colon/rectal cancer	6.8%	2.7%	3.8%
Lung cancer	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	3.0%	2.7%	2.8%
Bladder cancer	4.5%	1.6%	2.4%
Endometrial cancer	0.8%	2.4%	2.0%
Kidney cancer	3.8%	1.1%	1.8%
Leukemia	2.3%	1.4%	1.6%
Brain cancer	2.3%	1.1%	1.4%
Liver cancer	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%
Pancreatic cancer	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	12.1%	16.0%	15.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

**Which one form of cancer would you say is/was the most serious?**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Breast cancer	5.6%	21.1%	17.3%
Cervical cancer	0.0%	22.8%	17.3%
Skin cancer (melanoma)	16.7%	8.8%	10.7%
Lung cancer	11.1%	5.3%	6.7%
Colon/rectal cancer	16.7%	1.8%	5.3%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	0.0%	7.0%	5.3%
Prostate cancer	22.2%	0.0%	5.3%
Brain cancer	5.6%	3.5%	4.0%
Thyroid cancer	0.0%	5.3%	4.0%
Endometrial cancer	5.6%	1.8%	2.7%
Bladder cancer	0.0%	1.8%	1.3%
Leukemia	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
Liver cancer	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
Pancreatic cancer	0.0%	1.8%	1.3%
Skin cancer (non-melanoma)	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
Other	0.0%	19.3%	14.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 18</b>	<b>of 57</b>	<b>of 75</b>

**Considering your experience with most serious or only cancer, how long ago were you first diagnosed?**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Within the last 6 months	8.3%	4.6%	5.6%
More than 6 months but less than a year	7.6%	3.0%	4.2%
At least 1 year but less than 2 years	12.1%	9.8%	10.4%
At least 2 years but less than 3 years	6.8%	8.2%	7.8%
At least 3 years but less than 5 years	17.4%	12.2%	13.6%
5 years or longer	47.7%	62.2%	58.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

We would like to ask you some questions about the period of time before you saw a doctor that ultimately resulted in you being diagnosed with most serious or only cancer. Which of the following statements best applies to you?

	Male	Female	Grand Total
<b>I had symptoms that prompted me to see a doctor but it never occurred to me that I might have some form of cancer.</b>	34.1%	30.4%	<b>31.4%</b>
<b>I had symptoms that prompted me to see a doctor and I at least had the thought that it might be cancer.</b>	20.5%	20.1%	<b>20.2%</b>
<b>I did not have any symptoms at all, was seeing a doctor for a routine physical. Something came up as a result of the physical and I ended up being diagnosed with cancer.</b>	26.5%	28.5%	<b>28.0%</b>
<b>I did not have any symptoms at all, was seeing a doctor for something other than a routine physical, and I ended up being diagnosed with cancer.</b>	12.1%	7.9%	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Any other comments you'd like to share with us that would help us fully understand the circumstances before you were diagnosed?</b>	6.8%	13.0%	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

Approximately how long from the time you first noticed the slightest symptoms did you see a doctor?

	Male	Female	Grand Total
<b>1 week or less</b>	5.6%	19.4%	<b>15.5%</b>
<b>More than 1 week and less than 1 month</b>	22.2%	18.8%	<b>19.8%</b>
<b>At least 1 month and less than 2 months</b>	8.3%	14.5%	<b>12.8%</b>
<b>At least 2 months and less than 4 months</b>	11.1%	9.7%	<b>10.1%</b>
<b>At least 4 months and less than 6 months</b>	20.8%	7.0%	<b>10.9%</b>
<b>At least 6 months and less than 9 months</b>	12.5%	9.7%	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>At least 9 months and less than 1 year</b>	0.0%	8.1%	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>At least 1 year and less than 2 years</b>	9.7%	6.5%	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>At least 2 years and less than 3 years</b>	4.2%	2.2%	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>At least 3 years and less than 5 years</b>	0.0%	1.6%	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>5 years or more</b>	5.6%	2.7%	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 72</b>	<b>of 186</b>	<b>of 258</b>

**Which of the following best describes why you did not see a doctor sooner?**  
**(Please check all that apply. Note: This question was asked of those who waited 2 months or longer. Because this is a multiple response question the total of all percentages is greater than 100%.)**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
I was hoping the symptoms would go away.	37.0%	38.6%	38.1%
I procrastinated and didn't do anything about it right away.	37.0%	29.5%	32.1%
I was you afraid of what a doctor might find.	10.9%	14.8%	13.4%
I didn't have medical insurance.	8.7%	14.8%	12.7%
I didn't have the time to see a doctor.	13.0%	6.8%	9.0%
I was confused and did not know what to do.	8.7%	9.1%	9.0%
I was concerned about the costs.	10.9%	8.0%	9.0%
I was too busy.	8.7%	9.1%	9.0%
I was afraid I might have cancer.	4.3%	10.2%	8.2%
I didn't have a regular or family doctor.	10.9%	5.7%	7.5%
I saw my doctor as soon as he was available to see me.	6.5%	6.8%	6.7%
I didn't know who I should see.	2.2%	3.4%	3.0%
I improved my diet hoping that would cause the symptoms to go away.	4.3%	1.1%	2.2%
I wanted to try alternative medicine first before seeing a doctor.	2.2%	1.1%	1.5%
Other	13.0%	12.5%	12.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 46</b>	<b>of 88</b>	<b>of 134</b>

**“Other” Responses**

*didn't know what I had*

*Doctors had told me for many, many, many years it was nothing, and I was discouraged from removing it. When it started to hurt, I thought the tenderness would subside until I bumped it in a way that a shooting pain scared me, so I went to have it removed.*

*Drs kept looking at it and saying it was something else or was just OK.*

*Drs. didn't find it It was behind some organ and wasn't seen om ultra sound or MRI.*

*However I DID have a mammogramme when it was due.*

*I didn't think it was cancer. I thought it was just a scab. when it wouldn't heal up I saw a doctor.*

*I didn't recognize the spot as cancer*

*I didn't think it was cancer, a lot of the symptoms were the same as menopause*

*I have had back problems for close to 40 years and I thought this was more back problems.*

*I just thought I was having irregular periods.*

*I mentioned it to my primary care doctor, who looked at it and used a freeze process to see if it went away or returned. Then he gave a referral to a dermatologist*

*I thought I had something other than cancer*

*I was not sure if I had swollen throat after 6 months so dr. found out that it was my cancerous thyroids.*

*it started to grow*

*just thought it might be a pimple*

*My husband was dying of cancer and I wanted to wait until he died, and I had a book I had to finish to deliver to a publisher before I could take the time.*

*saw dr. as soon as first sign appeared*

*symptoms went away for awhile*

*thought the bleeding was caused by something else.*

**Did you consider going to a clinic? (Note: This question was asked of those respondents who were concerned about the costs in the question above.)**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Yes	60.0%	42.9%	50.0%
No	40.0%	57.1%	50.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 5</b>	<b>of 7</b>	<b>of 12</b>

**Can you tell us about the circumstances that made you too busy? (Please check all that apply. Note: This question was asked of those respondents who were “too busy.”)**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
I could not take time off from my job.	75.0%	62.5%	66.7%
I had family obligations that prevented me from seeing a doctor.	50.0%	37.5%	41.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 4</b>	<b>of 8</b>	<b>of 12</b>

**Which of the following statements best describes why you were afraid of what a doctor might find? (Note: This question was asked of those respondents who stated they were “afraid of what the doctor might find.”)**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
I am generally fearful and anxious about medical things.	60.0%	46.2%	50.0%
My family has a history of cancer.	20.0%	53.8%	44.4%
Because I have had bad medical experiences before.	20.0%	0.0%	5.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 5</b>	<b>of 13</b>	<b>of 18</b>

Which of the following statements best describes why you did not have a regular or family doctor? (Please check all that apply. Note: This question was asked of respondents who stated earlier that they “do not have a regular or family doctor.”)

	Male	Female	Grand Total
I did not have insurance.	60.0%	80.0%	70.0%
It's too expensive even with insurance.	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
I never had or made the time to establish a relationship with a doctor.	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%
I never thought I would become ill.	20.0%	0.0%	10.0%
I do not like doctors in general.	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%
Other	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 5</b>	<b>of 5</b>	<b>of 10</b>

Which of the following statements best describes why you did not have medical insurance? (Please check all that apply. Note: This question was asked of those respondents who stated they “didn’t have medical insurance.”)

	Male	Female	Grand Total
It's too expensive. I simply could not afford health insurance.	75.0%	76.9%	76.5%
I was denied insurance.	0.0%	15.4%	11.8%
I never thought I would become ill and so didn't need health insurance.	25.0%	0.0%	5.9%
My insurance policy lapsed due to a change of jobs.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
My insurance policy lapsed because I did not or could not keep up the payments.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I was confused about all the insurance options.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I don't believe in health insurance.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	25.0%	15.4%	17.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 4</b>	<b>of 13</b>	<b>of 17</b>

**Approximately how long was it from the time you saw your first doctor (if you saw more than one doctor) to the time you were actually diagnosed with most severe or only cancer?**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
<b>1 week or less</b>	33.3%	33.7%	<b>33.6%</b>
<b>More than 1 week and less than 1 month</b>	25.8%	34.8%	<b>32.4%</b>
<b>At least 1 month and less than 2 months</b>	20.5%	10.3%	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>At least 2 months and less than 4 months</b>	9.8%	4.3%	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>At least 4 months and less than 6 months</b>	0.8%	4.1%	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>At least 6 months and less than 9 months</b>	0.8%	2.4%	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>At least 9 months and less than 1 year</b>	0.0%	1.4%	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>At least 1 year and less than 2 years</b>	3.0%	3.5%	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>At least 2 years and less than 3 years</b>	1.5%	1.4%	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>At least 3 years and less than 5 years</b>	0.8%	1.6%	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>5 years or more</b>	3.8%	2.4%	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

**Can you please tell us the reasons for the diagnosis taking more than 2 months? (Open text)**  
**(Note: This question was asked of respondents whose diagnosis took 2 months or longer after having seen a doctor.)**

*1974---The doctor ran numerous tests over several weeks to determine it was malignant and then to determine the extent of involvement. Thyroid Cancer develops somewhat slowly, compared to other types.*

*2008----I have had 2 CT Scans, a PET Scan and a biopsy on a new growth in my neck.*

*1st doctor told me I had the flu then a virus this went on for several months and I tried to tell him then he thought i was turning into a hypocondreack.*

*after giving birth, i was having my tubes tied and it was discovered*

*All the testing came back inconclusive until a bone marrow biopsy was done. That was a last resort test.*

*Because I held off going to have the biopsy done.*

*Because I knew something was wrong when I was a child, but I could'nt convince my doctors or anybody until it got so bad that it almost killed me. I'm talking it wasn't found until they told me I had less than 24hrs. to live. I had to have immediate surgery.*

*because I saw more than one dr. for 2nd and 3rd opinions*

*because i was so scared too go and do anything about it because i didnt have any insurance*

*Because it was an exotic blood cancer, a doctor from elsewhere was brought in.*

*because my fucking doctor's office sent me a letter saying my pap test was fine and I didn't go back for another year*

*can't remember*

*Could not get mammograms from previous lab to compare with new ones*

*couldnt get an appointment before then*

*did not, was diagnosed the same day*

*DIDNT WANT TO KNOW.*

*different types of tests*

*doctor didn't think it was cancer*

*Doctors kept telling me cancer doesn't hurt, I was too young, my thyroid tests were always normal*

*doctor's office forgot to schedule test*

*dont know*

*dont know*

*don't know*

*dr i saw didnt think it was cancer so i got 2nd opinion and that one sent me to skin specialist*

*excessive testing*

*Getting appt with dermatologist*

*had a surgery to determine the exact problem*

*had lots of test*

*had no health insurance & No doctor will see you without money to put in their pocket first, (The Hippocratic Oath is dead in today's doctors)Let the poor people die &/or suffer let the wealthy live long & healthy. Sad isn't it?*

*had to wait to get an appointment with a dermatologist*

*I dont know*

*I don'tknow. It was my father*

*I explained before.*

*I had a doctor who misdiagnosed me. I was being treated for mononucleosis.*

*I had a mammogram and they were not sure it was cancer or what it was. So I went back and had another mammogram in January, 2000. The first one was in August 1999.*

*I had an enlarged prostate and was being treated for this when the PSA started climbing and I was then tested for cancer. It was the 2nd or 3rd biopsy before cancer was detected.*

*i had an itp and i was in the hospital every 2 weeks for the bleeding took that long for the dr.s to figure out what i had and how to treat it*

*I had blood in my stool, but thought it was red from eating licorce.*

*I had to have sugery, then went on the journey of getting a 2nd and 3rd opinion*

*I had to wait for an appointment to have my mamagram.*

*I have no idea.*

*I took the Alternative root as well.*

*I was being treated for sinus problem that would not go away. Final went to a ear, nose & throat specialist.*

*I was diagnosed with all kinds of other ailments instead of the cancer*

*I was not examined in that area plus it grew very fast*

*I was seeing a NP and I guess she didn't think it could be something like that*

*I was told it was normal cyst and I could have it removed whenever I wanted or leave it.*

*I was young and the doctor initially thought I had an infection that would clear up by itself.*

*I went to one doctor and got the biopsy and it came out inconclusive so he told me not to worry about it and to come back if it started growing. So a couple months went by and I went to visit family at Christmas time and they weren't happy with those results (understandably so, it was ridiculous) so we made an appointment for a second opinion and he's the one that discovered it*

*It takes that long to get an appointment using the public hospital.*

*It took that long to get an appointment with a dermatologist.*

*it took that long to get in to a skin dr.*

*it was a difficult diagnosis for the pathologists.*

*It was a suspicious area stage one but went to stage 3 by the end of a year just scared*

*mammogram a couple of times*

*Military hospitals have to have referrals from other doctors and appointments or not quick to get, finally had MOHS surgery in Colorado.*

*My primary Dr. had x-rays done and showed nothing and I was given anti-biotics. When I again started coughing blood, he did more x-rays that showed nothing and more anti-biotics. The 3rd month he sent me to a lung specialist that did a biopsy that showed cancer..*

*N/A*

*needed micro surgery to get tissue samples*

*never tested for it.thought it was my birth control pill,had been change during the time*

*no*

*no*

*no*

*no doctor knew what was wrong*

*No doctor tested the sites.*

*none*

*not getting thorough enough testing*

*not sure*

*other health issues were in place and it was found accidentall along with my appendix cancer*

*out of the country travel*

*Papillary carcinoma is not easily detected. Suppressive therapy did not resolve and required physical for transfer (active duty at the time). In papillary carcinoma, the cancer is encapsulated and is not aggressive - it does not travel. Cell aspiration biopsy is only successful when the needle used actually gets into the affected area.*

*Poor doctors ordering the wrong tests. I finally got a good gastroenterologist.*

*Repeated PSA then scheduled biopsy. Low PSA no immediacy*

*ruling out other possibilities*

*second opinion*

*see previous answer*

*several benign biopsies before the cancer was actually found*

*slow progression and no long term results with all treatments/procedures*

*some doctors had tests for me abt 3 weeks before I had surgery.*

***DR. DID MORE X RAYS ,NEXT DAY HE DID A BIOPSY, SURGERY WAS DONE THE FOLLOWING WEEK.***

*symptoms were confusing*

*test*

*test insurance approval, scheduling & results*

*Testing and retesting at intervals because the tests can have false positives.*

*tests*

*The blood tests were sent to a specialist*

*The cancer was not discovered until the thyroid was completely removed*

*The clinic didnt contact me .By phone they finally sent me out a letter to contact them*

*the Dr. kept putting off a test cause i was bleeding and had not stoped*

*The Dr. was not sure. It was very upsetting. I had a biopsy in June. She said it was not cancer. In Setemper I had a D& C and it was Cancer. Uterine Stage 2,*

*the first biopsy was negative, and a year later one showed cancer*

*The first Dr. told me not to worry about it.*

*The GYN/OB just kept doing biopsies and never told me of the results, until he suggested that I go to a Specialist*

*The gynecologist I saw (in 1980) kept telling me that it was "all in my head". When symptoms became severe (in 1983), I went to a hospital in a major city for another opinion. That doctor admitted me to the hospital the same day and performed a hysterectomy.*

*the regular medical doctors totally missed the diagnosis and did not order or complete the correct testing. It took the dentist and the oral surgeon/dentist he sent me to to get a proper biopsy and the had to search for better physician options for treatment.*

*they could'nt get thr results*

*they didn't find anything in the beginning.*

*They spotted what they thought was an ovarian cyst and waited for awhile to see if it would shrink on its own. When it wasn't shrinking and I started spotting they decided to go in. What they thought was a cyst was actually something like an aneurysm in the tube.*

*They thought it was swollen lymph nodes.*

*they weren't sure at first*

*uncontrolled bleeding*

*Was referred from family doctor to colorectal surgeon for visit.....then colonoscopy.*

*We see the doctor once a year*

*yes they were treating me for respiratory bronchitis*

**From the time you first saw a doctor do you believe a correct diagnosis could have been made any faster than it was?**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Yes	18.9%	24.7%	23.2%
No	81.1%	75.3%	76.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

**Which of the following would you say slowed the process of getting to the correct cancer diagnosis sooner? (Note: This question was asked of respondents who stated they “believe a correct diagnosis could have been made faster than it was.”)**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
My doctor suspected I had something else. He/she didn't do tests that would have identified cancer diagnosed with as soon as he/she could have.	12.0%	29.7%	25.9%
We did one round of tests after another, trial and error, in an effort to find out what was going on with my body.	12.0%	20.9%	19.0%
Testing facilities were busy and they could not take me right away for needed tests.	12.0%	14.3%	13.8%
Initially I was misdiagnosed with something else.	8.0%	14.3%	12.9%
I delayed testing because I was afraid of what the results might be.	16.0%	8.8%	10.3%
The initial test results were wrong; they came up negative for cancer. Later tests revealed that I did have cancer.	16.0%	7.7%	9.5%
I was simply busy with other things and wasn't available to do needed tests right away.	4.0%	5.5%	5.2%
I didn't have insurance and that delayed testing.	0.0%	4.4%	3.4%
I didn't have the out-of-pocket money to pay for the testing.	0.0%	3.3%	2.6%
Other	32.0%	24.2%	25.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 25</b>	<b>of 91</b>	<b>of 116</b>

### “Other” Responses

*couldn't get an earlier appointment*

*Dr did good job*

*Dr not interested in what I was telling him and told me it was nothing*

*I feel there was some kind of error.*

*I HAD IT TAKIN' CARE OF*

*I had to wait a long time to get an appointment with the OBGYN and for the the D&C he OBGYN took over 2 weeks to tell me the results of the tests. Once I contacted the City of Hope everything went fast*

*I waited for dr s order before I had surgery abt 2 weeks later.*

*i was to slow getting there noting that the doctor did*

*I went to seemy Doctor on a different problem and he cought the cancer ignored it*

*in my opinion a test they perormed should be routine for all women*

*It just takes time. You see a doctor. They send you to another doctor who want to do tests. YOU make an appointment for those. You go back to the doctor & he order more tests and you must wait for that appointment, then get an appointment to go back to the specialist for those results. It just takes time, but I was surprised that it took a month.*

*it took me that long to get in to see the dermatologist*

*my doctor did not do the right tests and did not take me serious and said i was a hypochondriac and had to change hospitals*

*my doctor was deployed to war*

*My doctor was not very intelligent.*

*my primary always does several rule outs before a referral. I think he is greatly influenced knowing the insurance company demands a series of steps before a referral.*

*my stupidly I was tested right away.*

*none*

*regular office visit with my my Dermatologist. no delay*

*Series of tests took time. Not Trial and error, just the time required to get results.*

*the different doctors sent me to another doctor*

*The doctor knew I had Cancer and never sent me to a specialist since it was not spreading at the time*

*the first time I found the lump, the Dr's office messed up my appt and by the time they could re-schedule me, it was a month later - unexcusable*

*The initital test results were inconclusive*

*The original pathologist completing the testing in upper New England could not come up with a diagnosis, had to send to another pathologist in the State of Georgia to be tested.*

*The VA hospital thought I had an infection, so I when and got a second opinion and they saw a tumor, during surgery, they found stage I cancer*

*they diagnosis me correct. they made an appt to see gastorogy then made appt to have colonoscopy. i didnt know i had colon by then.*

*They didn't run enough specific tests*

*They found the problem and sent to specialist and had it removed*

Approximately how many different doctors did you see in total, including any family doctor(s) before being diagnosed with most severe or only cancer?

	Male	Female	Grand Total
<b>1 doctor</b>	30.3%	36.1%	<b>34.6%</b>
<b>2 doctors</b>	54.5%	42.7%	<b>45.8%</b>
<b>3 doctors</b>	9.8%	14.1%	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>4 doctors</b>	1.5%	3.3%	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>5 doctors</b>	1.5%	1.4%	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>More than 5 doctors</b>	2.3%	2.4%	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

After seeing the first physician regarding this instance with most severe or only cancer what happened next?

	Male	Female	Grand Total
<b>I was referred to a surgeon or other physician for biopsy.</b>	43.2%	38.9%	<b>40.0%</b>
<b>My doctor treated my cancer condition successfully.</b>	25.0%	25.8%	<b>25.6%</b>
<b>I was referred to an oncologist.</b>	16.7%	16.0%	<b>16.2%</b>
<b>He reassured me and sent me home.</b>	2.3%	2.7%	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>My doctor treated my cancer condition unsuccessfully.</b>	2.3%	1.9%	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>I chose to undergo no further testing.</b>	3.0%	1.1%	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>There was a delay due to insurance problems.</b>	0.0%	0.8%	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Other</b>	7.6%	12.8%	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>of 132</b>	<b>of 368</b>	<b>of 500</b>

### Other Responses

*a biopsy was performed at the first visit. when the results came in, an appointment was made to remove it.*

*a specialist removed the cancer*

*After mammo, referred to surgeon for lumpectomy.*

**DERMATOLOGIST REMOVED THE CANCER IMMEDIATELY & TOOK BIOPSY**

*Followup continued until resolution of the "what" was required due to need to transfer to an overseas duty station.*

*For vaginal I was referred to an oncologist. For tongue I saw my dentist, an oral surgeon and two ENT doctors.*

*had blood work, then chest scans, then lung biopsy, then chemo to treat cancer*

*HAD IT TAKIN' CARE OF*

*had my blood tested twice a week and had my spleen taken out when that didn't help*

*I did many tests then did biopsy*

*I did not like the first doctors result, so I when to a second doctor*

*I did not start chemo but was monitored every 3 months for 1/12 years till it progressed until it was needed.*

*I don't know*

*I explained before.*

*I had a biopsy with family doctor and oncologist present.*

*I had a hysterectomy and problems were solved*

*I had a total thyroidectomy, followed by six weeks of Cobalt radiation which has led to my current esophagus restriction and my current growth in my neck.*

*I had surgery to remove it*

*I had the first surgery 3 days after going to the emerg-room.*

*I initially was back in my hometown when I discovered a lump and went to my old family doctor who advised me to see my current doctor when I got back home in a couple of days. After seeing that doctor she sent me to a surgeon who did the biopsy.*

*I moved to a different part of the state and had to set up an appointment with a new doctor*

*I sought out second, third, etc. opinions in the area I lived, but the doctors kept referring me back to my gynecologist (the first doctor).*

*I underwent surgery for my gallbladder first then 2 months later had my right kidney removed with the cancerous tumor on it.*

*I was furious to find out my doctor knew for 4 months and did nothing. I went to the Cancer Research Centers of America in Zion, Illinois which saved my life.*

*i was referedto m.d. anderson cancer hopital*

*I was referred to a neurosurgeon for a resection*

*I was referred to a surgeon who removed my thyroid gland, then referred somewhere else for a radioactive iodine treatment, they were successful*

*I was referred to a urologist.*

*I was told by the person doing the barium enema that I was fine. I left town and didn't see the doctor again. I didn't have any more blood for several months,*

*i was told i had an abcessed tooth and was given antibiotics*

*I went durect to a specialist and he had the cancer out in three weeks tops*

*i went to a doctor who just scraped it off and 'band-aided' me*

*I went to the doctors to see about a pain in my thigh an found out the there was a blood clot and that is when they also found the cancer*

*immediate surgery*

*ist dr did not think it was anything serious wrong except stomach virus and another time the flu*

*it turned out thru a bisopy that it was not a cancer but i will be a more likely canidate to develop a cancer in the furture*

*momo*

*My doctor did the biopsy my first visit and when the results came back, I was referred to a Moh's surgeon.*

*My doctor made an appointment with a dermatologist.*

*My doctor referred me to a kidney specialist when blood was discovered in a urinalysis. That specialist diagnosed bladder cancer, but was not able to remove it in total and referred me to a*

*department chairman at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. This surgeon subsequently removed my bladder and replaced it with a Koch pouch.*

*My doctor referred me to an urilogest*

*my doctor sent me to Harborview emergency*

*My family Doctor referred me to the specialist, he found & removed the tumor. Then referred me to an oncologist.*

*my family Dr. had it tested at the local small town hospital & they said Cancer. I went to American Cancer Research Hospital in Zion, IL. Their tests of my slide said it was not cancer, but another area was found. I will go to them if i ? another area. I have been sunburned often as i grew up.*

*So it is important to be alert. It was very frustrating with the lack of ignorance in small town "care".*

*My primary physician referred me to a GYN doctor who did both surgeries.*

*My regular G.P. sent me for a CT Scan. Then he sent me to a Surgeon & a Gyne. Within 2 weeks, I had surgery.*

*no*

*no choice was in er and went right to surgery then it all started from there*

*Our dermatologist treated my skin cancer successfully  
referred to dermatologist*

*repeat sent me to see gasterlogy after doctor asked me if i have blood in stomach. i not know for sure. just check to make sure.*

*Saw my regular doctor who referred me to specialist.*

*Sent to a clinic for biopsy and testing.*

*sent to skin doctor*

*sent to skin specialist taken care of by freezing*

*still getting tx from same Dr. for on going eruptions*

*the doctor ws my regular dermatologist that i see every six months*

*The doctor's response was stupid, I rescheduled with another doctor*

*The first doctor I saw he told me I had it. I went to a 2nd doctor and I stayed with him and he saved my life. I see the doctor every 6 months to make sure that it is ok.*

*The first doctor, a dermatologist, had the biopsy done; he immediately referred me to a plastic surgeon for who could do an extensive excision.*

*the mammogram was done on a tuesday, when i got home from the x-ray there was a message on my machine stating i needed to come back on thursday, the biopsy was done the following monday i had my results, the following friday i had an appointment with the surgeon, surgery was done approx three weeks later due to a very bad case of the flu that kept me down for two weeks, after the surgery i saw my radiation oncologist, and medical oncologist. 6 months of chemotherapy, 6weeks of radiation therapy*

*the ovary was taken out at the time of the laparoscopy*

*Then she referred me to an oncologist I got a second opinion at the City of Hope the diagnosis was much more educated and optimistic and scientific*

*They couldn't help because i was to poor to affford them.*

*told me not to worry so I did not*

*was refered to a gyob*

*we did surgery immediately*

*went for second opinion*

**Let's suppose for a minute there had been a "Cancer Help Line" that people could call and speak to someone for guidance and advice should they have any suspicions whatsoever that they might have cancer. When you first thought something might be wrong, would you have called such a "Cancer Help Line" had you known of it?**

	Male	Female	Grand Total
Yes	37.9%	45.4%	43.4%
No	62.1%	54.6%	56.6%
Grand Total	of 132	of 368	of 500