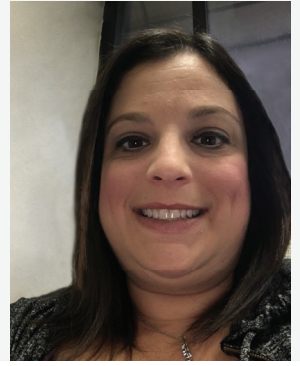




# MEET STEPHANIE



Stephanie is a 40-year-old cervical cancer survivor living in Wynwood, PA. She was diagnosed at the age of 34 when she went for a regular, annual gynecology exam.

Stephanie was at work when she received the news by phone from her doctor. It was a shock and she was not clear about what the next steps would be. Stephanie was not expecting this news, and getting it during her work day was difficult, so she left work early to go home to process the information.

Specifically, Stephanie was diagnosed with glandular carcinoma. Her next steps were to have ultrasounds done and then see an oncologist. She got recommendations from her gynecologist for two different oncologists and visited both. Next, she had a cone biopsy to determine if they could do a partial rather than a complete hysterectomy, which she did end up needing. The entire treatment period took place over the course of five to six months.

Stephanie additionally had genetic testing done

to determine whether or not she carried the BRCA gene and was relieved to learn that she does not carry it.

After the hysterectomy, Stephanie had a series of follow-up appointments with her oncologist starting every month, then every other month, then every six months. Now, she's back to just annual check-ups.

Stephanie didn't know anyone else who had dealt with cervical cancer. She joined an online support group to help her through it and participating in the group helped her a great deal. In fact, she is still a part of that group six years later, staying informed and helping to inform others about her experience.

As a result of her experience with cervical cancer, Stephanie now is vocal about encouraging everyone she knows to get annual gynecological check-ups. She explains to them how much worse it could have been for her if she hadn't gotten her check-up each year and her cancer wasn't diagnosed when it was.



# MEET STEPHANIE

The best advice Stephanie would give to a newly diagnosed patient, is to find a reputable support group that provides reliable and helpful answers, as well as to be comforted. She also would encourage a new patient to always ask her doctors and nurses every question that comes to mind, and never hold back in that regard.

Stephanie feels that more research could be done on cervical cancer. She hears a lot about breast cancer but not about cervical cancer. She specifically hopes that in the future, she'll see more effort put into prevention, focused on things like the HPV vaccine. She would have taken that vaccine and would have had her children vaccinated. She only found out she had cervical cancer through a routine test and wouldn't have known otherwise, as she had no symptoms. Because it was undetectable for her without that test, she feels it is imperative for researchers to focus on prevention.

Stephanie thinks it's important to participate in market research studies like those M3 Global Research conducts because she believes they can help patients access more quality information.