

**Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2007 1:25 PM  
**To:** NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)  
**Subject:** IBM Endicott Cancer Victim  
**Attachments:** Medical Report.doc

Dear Diane,

I wanted to send you my husband's story. He was an Endicott, NY IBM Employee for    years. He worked in a few capacities and worked with chemicals and worked in a contaminated environment.    was a dedicated IBMer; he gave his loyalty and his life to a company that had no regard for his well-being.

Loosing him has been devastating to our boys and myself. I am hopeful that IBM and OSHA are investigated for their wrongdoing.

Thank you for listening to our story.

7/27/2007

My husband, \_\_\_\_\_ worked for IBM at the Endicott, NY facility for \_\_\_\_\_ years. During his tenure his main job functions were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Except for taking medication for elevated blood pressure, he was in good health.

On \_\_\_\_\_ felt a pain in his right shoulder that was sever enough to warrant him a trip to the Emergency Room. After many hours of extensive testing, it was determined that \_\_\_\_\_ had a tumor in his liver. He was released and referred to his Primary Care Physician.

We met with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ where we were given the devastating news....The tumor in \_\_\_\_\_ liver was fatal and there was nothing she could do. We inquired as to what would cause this tumor to form. \_\_\_\_\_ did not drink, he never had hepatitis, and he had no tattoos, all of the normal causes of liver disease. \_\_\_\_\_ had no immediate answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ referred us to a Liver Cancer specialist at \_\_\_\_\_ After about two months of testing, it was determined that there was no viable treatment or procedure to perform on \_\_\_\_\_. The doctor confirmed that this tumor would be fatal and he was doubtful that there was any medicine or procedure to extend his life. He referred us to the \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Center to investigate the possibility of performing embolization.

We arrived in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and met with a Liver Cancer specialist. He described the experimental embolization procedure that he said had the possibility of extending \_\_\_\_\_' life for maybe one year. It was very disconcerting to continue to hear that \_\_\_\_\_ would not make it twelve more months especially due to the fact that he never compromised his body in a way that would cause this horrible medical prognosis.

The embolism was performed in \_\_\_\_\_. As I waited outside the procedure room, I saw many doctors and nurses rush into the operating room where \_\_\_\_\_ was. In my need to know what was happening, I entered the room. I heard the doctors yelling at \_\_\_\_\_ "hang on" and "lie still, it will be ok". What had happened was that the artery that was used to administer the embolism began to bleed. \_\_\_\_\_ lost a lot of blood and had to stay very still and quiet for quite a while.

The doctor said that this procedure would be performed every 6-8 weeks in an attempt to starve the tumor of its blood supply. That would be \_\_\_\_\_ only chance of extended life. \_\_\_\_\_ was happy to hear that this could extend his life, but he wanted more. He wanted a cure. He felt that if this procedure were performed every 4 weeks rather than every 6-8 weeks, it would give him a better chance for survival. We began investigating other alternatives.

We spoke to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital in NYC. He agreed to talk to us regarding the embolism and other options that might be available. We met with him in January \_\_\_\_\_. He agreed to take a more aggressive approach to the embolization procedure. He explained that he would administer a much larger embolism dosage and perform that in conjunction with chemotherapy. \_\_\_\_\_ did not suggest that this procedure would extend \_\_\_\_\_ life any longer, but to \_\_\_\_\_ there was always that hope. We set up the appointment for the following month for the first treatment.

We checked into \_\_\_\_\_ hospital in \_\_\_\_\_. The procedure was supposed to take about 4 hours, but there were complications. As the embolization medicine was being administered into \_\_\_\_\_ liver, there was an artery that was connected to the lungs that the Doctor was unaware of. The embolization medicine blocked the porous cells of the lung and \_\_\_\_\_ almost suffered cardiac arrest. The doctor came out and told me that they almost lost him during the procedure and they had to stop. \_\_\_\_\_ was in serious condition.

\_\_\_\_\_ spent the next 4 days in intensive care in serious condition. We were told that he would no longer be a candidate for embolization. After his recovery, we went home.

We called \_\_\_\_\_ to see if there was any other medical procedure that might help \_\_\_\_\_. He told us that \_\_\_\_\_ prognosis was beyond his medical expertise and referred us to \_\_\_\_\_ also at \_\_\_\_\_ worked with experimental drugs and he was willing to speak to us.

We met with \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. He told us that it was doubtful that anything he did would be of help to \_\_\_\_\_, but he was willing to try. \_\_\_\_\_ told him that if he was putting him into an experimental group, he definitely did not want placebos, he wanted the real medicine. \_\_\_\_\_ old \_\_\_\_\_ that he would not be put into an experimental group because he had too many drugs in his system and that would skew the test results.

\_\_\_\_\_ started on an experimental chemotherapy in \_\_\_\_\_. That procedure would be administered every two weeks. After two months of treatment \_\_\_\_\_ informed us that the drug was not working and in fact the tumor grew to twice its size and spread into multiple tumors in both lobes of the liver. He terminated future procedures.

We were out of options so we went to \_\_\_\_\_ Oncology in \_\_\_\_\_ NY for whatever treatment could be administered. Before any treatment began, \_\_\_\_\_ ended up in \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital, \_\_\_\_\_ NY, as he was experiencing breathing difficulty. He lay there for one-week, weak and uncomfortable. He was seen by the hospital Oncologist, who told us there was nothing they could do for him except to make him comfortable. When they felt that he was eating well enough to go home, he was discharged.

Life  
Word Doc  
OTO  
Date

One day later, [redacted] was re-admitted to [redacted] Hospital, [redacted], NY with the same breathing difficulties. It was here that he went downhill very quickly. His internal organs began failing. They inserted a catheter to aid with the elimination of liquid waste. They also implanted a pick-line to administer drugs. His potassium levels were dangerously high so [redacted] a Urologist, wanted to be able to administer IV drugs to keep his potassium level down.

At this point, [redacted] was not always thinking clearly and he was hallucinating. He was weak and in pain. It was very difficult seeing him in this state.

[redacted] was released from the hospital the beginning of [redacted]. They sent him home to die.

Less than two weeks later, [redacted] passed away at his home. He was surrounded by family and friends.

[redacted] leaves behind two [redacted] in college, a wife and many wonderful family members and friends. IBM destroyed him twice. Once after being [redacted] after [redacted] years of devoted service with no pension and once by contaminating his body with cancer causing toxins and causing him to die prematurely.