



My husband David was 45 when he was diagnosed with ocular melanoma on Valentine's Day 2007. David was my childhood sweetheart and we were married with 4 children.

David was referred to Liverpool and was advised he had a large tumour. David received proton beam therapy at Clatterbridge. As the tumour was

large David decided to have a biopsy which identified that David's tumour was unlikely to spread. In fact, David received a letter from Prof Damato Aug 2007, advising that after Proton beam therapy his life expectancy was back to what it was before his diagnosis, as you can imagine we were delighted.

David was seen over the next 12-18mths at both Newcastle (follow ups) and Liverpool for Avastin injections to try and reduce the inflammation caused by the reducing tumour.

Unfortunately, David's eye never recovered from the treatment and as he had already lost his sight it was decided in 2009 that his eye needed to be removed. As we live in Newcastle it was decided that the procedure could be carried out there. David recovered extremely quickly after all his procedures and always carried on working throughout the cancer journey.

Even after his eye was removed David continued to work all over the world in his role as Technical Manager for a large multinational company. David quickly accepted his prosthetic eye and regularly presented at large company gatherings.



David was discharged in 2009 after his eye was removed and he was grateful that he 'was cured'.

After several incidents with pain and pressure in his prosthesis he presented at hospital again and several months later he was advised a large 'mass' had grown in the remaining tissue.

In September 2014, the tumour was resected and he was advised that the ocular melanoma had returned. This time we did not listen to the doctors in Newcastle, who wanted to treat him locally. As a registered Nurse I went on the internet, rang several hospitals and eventually asked our GP to refer David to Sheffield Ocular Oncology Unit.

Scans identified the tumour was in the optic nerve making its way to the brain and the remaining eye. David received 'cyber knife' radiotherapy after a second op to remove as much tissue from the orbit as possible.

Once again, David came to terms with the loss of his prosthetic eye and he now had a large hollow on his face. After his recovery, he continued to travel around the world.

Throughout 2015 David had further surgery as he had a tumour resected from his lung and several from his liver. Unfortunately, the tumours continued to multiply in his liver.



During October 2015 David complained of pain in his spine and was then advised the cancer had spread to his spine. The day before our sons' wedding David developed a spinal chord compression, this was eventually controlled with steroids and radium.

David started immunotherapy in November. Over the next 4 months David lost 4 stones and became quite unwell, however he continued to work from home when he could.

Scans early in 2016 indicated that the treatment had not worked. David needed to start the next line of immunotherapy. However, within a couple of weeks blood tests identified that David's liver was in decline. In February, he was advised there was no further treatment available.

We returned home knowing David may only have a few months left. He passed away 6 weeks later (02/04/16) at home with me by his side.



Throughout his journey David never cried, never said 'why me' both David and I tried to stay positive. Once the cancer returned we both knew he was going to die but both were determined to live life to the full and make as many memories as possible.

David was a quiet but very brave man and continued to try and work and help out his colleagues if and when he could.

David is sorely missed by all his family, friends and work colleagues.

