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Healthy Lung, Generous Hearts: Tom and Felice Wiener

Last March, Tom Wiener’s physicians noticed a small lump on the side of his neck. Tom dutifully followed through with a CT scan at his community hospital. While the scan confirmed that the lump in his neck was nothing to worry about, it also revealed something more suspicious in the upper part of his right lung. As Tom recalls, the physicians said it could be one of two things: a tumor or an infection. After two follow-up tests, Tom and his wife, Felice, received the frightening diagnosis: lung cancer.

Referred to Jefferson, Tom soon met Scott W. Cowan, MD, FACS, at MethodistIST Hospital. Dr. Cowan told him that many of his patients undergo operations on “incidental findings” like his. In early May, Dr. Cowan performed a minimally invasive lobectomy to remove the tumor from Tom’s lung — and he made a full recovery without the need for radiation or chemotherapy.

“Fortunately, it turned out to have been a slow-growing adenocarcinoma. It was the size of a golf ball and totally self-contained,” says Tom, who lives in Wynnewood and practices law in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

In reflecting on his experiences as a patient, Tom lauds Dr. Cowan both for his surgical prowess and his warm personality.

620 Curtis Building
1015 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Department of Surgery
Jefferson University Hospitals
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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I accompanied my mother, Angela Domino, to Methodist Hospital last Friday for a breast surgery performed by Melissa Lazar, MD. I just wanted you to know how wonderful our experience was, and I place much of that credit on your employees’ personal efforts at keeping my mother calm, and supported.

At 84, my mom was apprehensive about trusting a new surgeon AND a new hospital. Dr. Lazar is a fantastic combination of intelligence: skill and a fast and strong ability to form a bond that made my mother give way her fears. Mom went from great apprehension to complete trust, and I am so grateful for this.

My experience at Methodist reminded me of my years in private practice, when I admitted patients to a suburban community hospital, where everyone knew and cared for each other. You have done a great job, and I thank you for running such a solid institution.

Frank J. Domino, MD
Professor
Dept. Family Medicine & Community Health
University of Massachusetts Medical School