Prostate Cancer Focal Treatment

John Fortin, FSA Ancan/ASPI Support Group August, 2020



## About Me - Disclosures

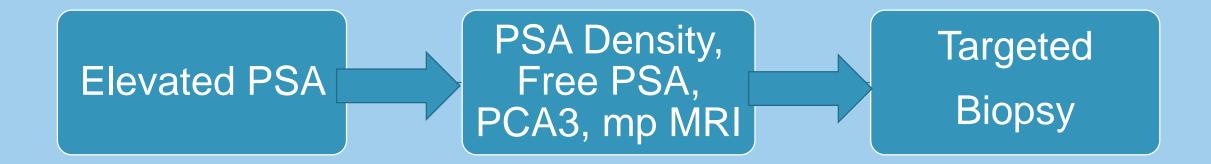
- Not a clinician or attorney, so no clinical/legal advice is intended
- Fellow, Society of Actuaries, Healthcare
  Society's motto: "Substitute facts for appearances ...
  Expertise: morbidity and mortality analytics
- Patient, advocate and coach
- Us TOO Board of Directors
- Patient Advocate Liaison (PAL) to the American Urological Association representing all Urological Patients in US
- Journalist for UroToday® covering clinical conferences



## Agenda

- I. My Journey
- II. Focal Treatment Options
- III. Q&A

# I. My Journey: Diagnosis



After pathology, genomics and second opinion: 3 bi-lateral lesions; Grade Group 1 (GS 6) and Grade Group 2 (GS 3+4); no spread; genomics

### Treatment Options in 2014: Shared Decision-Making

- Got *diverse opinions* (not much *Evidence*): AS, Radiology (imaging), Urology (surgery), and Radiation experts from 3 academic medical centers
- Active Surveillance vs. Whole Gland (surgery/radiation) conundrum
  Plan A: not a good candidate for Active Surveillance Undertreatment
  Plan B: not a good candidate for Whole Gland treatment Overtreatment

Standard options were not attractive.

#### Paradigm Shift: From Whole Gland "Cure" to Focal Control



My Goals:

- ✓ Eliminate current lesions
- ✓ Maintain Quality of Life
- ✓ Preserve future treatment options

# My Journey: Treatment

- Chose Focal Laser Ablation (FLA) at UT Galveston \$16,000 cash
- Outpatient procedure
- No Evidence of Disease and No Side Effects after 6+ years!
- Surveillance program

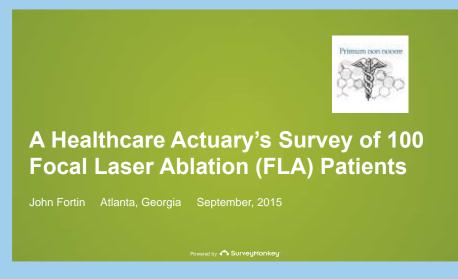
Monitor PSA, or better biomarkers, every 6 months
 Mp MRI every 12-24 months & MR Targeted Biopsy as needed
 Healthy diet, exercise, lifestyle

Medicare

Initially denied claim as "Experimental and Unnecessary"
 ALJ ordered Medicare to cover treatment – 100% reimbursement

What would FLA patients have done differently?

- 88% Very little if anything
- 8% Would skip the TRUS Biopsy



- 2% Would have more carefully considered which Radiologist
- 1% Would have continued Active Surveillance
- 1% Would have had Radical Prostatectomy or Radiation

99% would recommend FLA to a friend.