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How to present online information to older cancer patients

Bol, N.

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Appendix B: Conversational-styled version for the patient script (Chapter 5)

I suffered from lung cancer and was treated with the RFA method. [RFA is a minimally invasive method, which] This means that they approached my [the] lung tumor through a very small nick. A special needle guided by a CT scanner was [will be] inserted into my [the] cancerous lung tumor. The needle was [is] connected to an electrical generator which produces electrical currents. And the electrical currents passing through the needle created [ing] heat that destroyed [s] the cancer cells. The treatment was [is] performed percutaneous which means that the needle electrodes are inserted through the skin.

The treatment takes about one and a half hour and will be performed using spinal anesthesia or sedation. I myself received sedation, but that depended [ing] on the location of the tumor.

No surgical procedure is without risk, and also this procedure carries risks [and]. Despite all precautionary measures there is always a small risk of thrombosis, a blood clot inside a blood vessel, lung infection or wound infection.

In addition, RFA [this procedure] also carries the risk of other complications. During my surgery for instance, my lung collapsed. This is also known as a pneumothorax and occurs because of a hole that develops in the lung, which allows air to escape in the space around the lung. This is the most common complication. However, because I was sedated, I did not notice anything. A chest drain was immediately [will be] inserted into the chest cavity to remove the air. This drain helped [s] to reinflate my [the] lung and gradually expanded [s] to its original size.

Then, other complications can also occur, such as [are] (severe) bleeding, air-leak from the lung, pneumonia, and upper respiratory tract infection. Fortunately, I did not experience any of those.

By taking precautionary measures in the hospital, they [we] do everything in their [our] power to minimize risks. This means that they explain very precisely what will happen in advance. And this was very pleasant, because in this way I knew what to expect.

Note. Underlined portions were added to the conversational-styled version (or replaced the bracketed words).