

# T E *Teamwork* R K

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NEWS FOR THE BORGESS FAMILY

## Lung Cancer: A new approach

**O**nalee Milbocker is a testament to the cardinal rule that the earlier a cancer is detected, the greater the likelihood of successful treatment.

A nodule was discovered on the Allegan grandmother's lung four years ago and doctors monitored the condition over time.

Recently, however, a new non-invasive procedure at Borgess Medical Center allowed physicians to take a close look at the tiny nodule and perform a speedy biopsy.

The result: They caught the cancer at Stage 1, early and most treatable.

"I wasn't really scared," Onalee said. "I should have been. But I think because of my husband, I knew he was not going to take it well. So, I had to take it well."

### **Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENP)**

Dr. Jason Ladwig, pulmonologist, Borgess Pulmonary Medicine, said the new technique is called Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENP).

"It's essentially a GPS guide for the lung," he said. A fiber optic probe was inserted through Onalee's throat and guided to the tiny-12mm-nodule, allowing immediate access to the nodule and a biopsy.

"By conventional means we still would have been stuck waiting" and the cancer could have gone undetected, Dr. Ladwig said. "But we were able to use our new technology to biopsy it now and not wait any longer."

Once diagnosed, Onalee was

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Onalee Milbocker

# A new approach to lung cancer

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scheduled for surgery.

“The new technology was very beneficial for Onalee so that she could come to me to talk about doing minimally invasive lung surgery to remove her lung cancer and give her the best chance for a cure,” said Dr. Samer Kanaan, thoracic surgeon, Borgess CardioThoracic Surgery.

Onalee was in Borgess only three days following the surgery and will be closely monitored. She is, however,



Jason Ladwig, MD



## LEARN MORE:

Dr. Samer Kanaan (left) and Dr. Jason Ladwig explain a new approach for lung cancer using Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENP) on WWMT's "Doc Talk." The story can be seen at [thatwhere.com](http://thatwhere.com).

now cancer free.

“Everybody now is just looking forward and being so grateful,” Onalee said. “I had terrific doctors and I couldn’t be more grateful.”

The American Cancer Society says that despite advances in diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer during the last 50 years, it causes more deaths than any

other cancer in men and women. Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosis in the United States and accounts for 14 percent of all cancer deaths.

“Anything we can do to capture lung cancer early such as a stage 1, as Onalee was, we can give them an 85-plus percent chance of being cured at five years,” Dr. Kanaan said.