

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- **Clarity:** The organization is committed to help adults diagnosed with cancer understand their disease and treatment options.
- **Compassion:** Our personal, compassionate, and professional interaction with patients and their families is foremost in our process.
- **Choice:** We describe the treatment choices, the reasons for our recommendations, and respect the patient's ultimate decision.
- **Confidentiality:** We respect each patient's personal and medical privacy, and treat patients' information in a confidential manner, consistent with HIPAA regulations.
- **Credibility:** We provide independent second opinions that are free of personal, commercial or academic bias.
- **Availability:** Our services are free of charge, regardless of income.

If you, a family member, or a friend have been diagnosed with cancer and need a second opinion, contact us today at 415.775.9956 or mail@thesecondopinion.org.

thesecondopinion

1200 Gough Street, Suite 500
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www.thesecondopinion.org

thesecondopinion is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.



thesecondopinion

IT'S MUCH MORE
THAN A SECOND OPINION!
IT'S HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

CLARITY. COMPASSION. CHOICE

"Living with uncertainty, and raising a family, is a huge challenge with a cancer diagnosis. Having a second opinion helped us make timely decisions that have given us a more certain future, and it's a good one."

– Patient Noah Standridge & Family
(pictured)



Meet the Standridge family, Noah and Brinly, and their five incredible children ages 1 through 12. Noah and Brinly came to the **second** opinion after Noah was diagnosed and treated for stage 3c colon cancer. They came to make sure that they had done everything they could do to fight his disease and for peace of mind.

A second opinion at any stage of cancer is critical.

It was during the in-person review panel discussion at the **second** opinion, that our volunteer radiologist noticed a suspicious area on Noah's original chest CT and suggested they go for further testing. Noah's medical team responded, Noah's last PET scan and biopsy of a lung nodule tested positive for metastatic colon cancer. Two thoracic surgeons removed the tumor, and Noah currently has "no evidence of disease."

HOW YOU CAN HELP FAMILIES LIKE THE STANDRIDGE'S

Make a donation and you will be providing this **FREE** needed service to cancer patients allowing them to move forward with **HOPE, DIRECTION** and a more **CERTAIN FUTURE**.

Donate today online at www.thesecondopinion.org/donate.

Educating, Empowering and Providing Peace of Mind to Cancer Patients and Their Families Since 1969

WHY *thesecond*opinion

Not all cancer patients have access to an independent second opinion and if they have insurance coverage, it is often fraught with restrictions that make it very difficult for a cancer patient to seek a timely and comprehensive secondary assessment. By providing free, comprehensive second opinions we help low-income cancer patients overcome what are frequent barriers to obtaining access to medical resources, care and education about their disease. Our service provides cancer patients the same access to medical resources as those who usually have a broader access to medical care, in their language and at their level of understanding.

OUR VALUE

The value that we provide to cancer patients is the opportunity to have 4-7 independent, board certified cancer specialists carefully review their medical records, images and pathology, and communicate directly as a committee with the patient and family. Through this dialogue, the volunteer physicians are able to answer questions directed by the patient, confirm the diagnosis and provide a detailed explanation of the extent of the disease and treatment options. With this approach we are able to provide patients the information necessary to manage their disease, improve their well-being, and to face potentially difficult choices.

Our Impact: *thesecond*opinion provides a unique service not duplicated by any other agency in California. Using a multidisciplinary team of volunteer cancer specialists to provide a free, independent, comprehensive second opinion and communicate directly as a committee with the patient and family is truly a unique and compassionate approach to providing medical care.

Help a cancer patient today: www.thesecondopinion.org/donate



"The decisions we have to make about the best treatments for our type of cancer are so difficult, as we do not have the knowledge and experience. This program helped me SO MUCH with my most difficult treatment decisions. The willingness of these amazing doctors to share their time and knowledge with me in my greatest hour of need was incredible."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your gift will provide someone diagnosed with cancer the gift of clarity, compassion and choice. 100% of our funding comes from foundations, corporations and compassionate individuals who believe everyone should have access to a second opinion. We do not receive government support, bill insurance companies, or charge for our service.

WHO WE ARE

Since 1969, we've provided free consultations to thousands of adults in California diagnosed with cancer, focusing on the underserved and lower income community.

Today, the heart of our program relies on the volunteer efforts of over seventy board-certified physicians from multiple cancer-related specialties. Their diverse experiences in cancer diagnosis and treatment allow us to provide a patient-centered and compassionate service not duplicated by any other agency in California.

WHAT WE DO

*thesecond*opinion provides free, comprehensive second opinions to adults in California diagnosed with cancer, using a panel format. Our purpose is to give cancer patients with limited medical resources and their family members the clarity they need to make decisions about treatment.

A Review Panel consists of up to seven volunteer doctors who are board certified in the medical specialties needed to review each individual case.



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Patients, and their family members who attend, receive input from a radiologist, pathologist, radiation oncologist, medical oncologist and surgical specialist as needed.

The panelists answer questions directed by the patients and provide unbiased recommendations for treatment, symptom management, support service or further testing. Patients leave feeling empowered to move forward, confident they are pursuing the best possible course of action.

WHO WE SERVE

Adults in California, regardless of income. Our goal is to broaden our reach to rural and low-income communities.

OUR PATIENTS' PROFILES

-  Each year we review **20-25** types of cancer.
-  Approximately **65-68%** of our patients have a combined income of \$50,000 or less.
-  **62-65%** of patients are disabled, retired, or unemployed when seeking our service.

"Please accept our belated but very sincere THANK YOU for reviewing [our case] and for addressing our follow-up questions. Your input very much helped us to proceed with confidence with her treatment. We are still very touched by the kindness, thoughtfulness, efficiency and generosity that all of you have shown to us. The service that you provide in this anxious time is truly amazing!"