

BOB BONTHRONE, 75

RETIRED finance manager Bob, married to Margaret, 77, learned he had prostate cancer in 2003. Bob, from Stirlingshire, Scotland, has tried all other available treatments and was devastated when he was turned down for Abiraterone. It would cost the NHS more than £35,000 for a year's supply.

“I don't believe you can put a price on life. I'm astonished that the drug has been turned down and Margaret is devastated. After the announcement, the look on her face said it all.

I'm going through more chemotherapy at the moment but what do I have to look forward to after that? I can't see why a very effective drug that was developed in the UK can't be used to help the people of the UK. It doesn't seem excessively expensive. It has helped some men live for another four years.

My wife and I had so much to look forward to. We were planning on exploring the world. This was going to be our time to enjoy life. It was a shock when I was told that it had actually spread to my pelvis and lymph

nodes. But I was determined to get through it.

I started hormone therapy treatment which helped me to get my life back a bit.

But by the end of 2008, the pain had returned. The therapy was no longer working and the cancer had spread to other parts of my body. I had chemotherapy and I took part in a clinical trial of Cabazitaxel, which helped slow the progress of the cancer.

Margaret and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in June 2009 with our two children and four grandchildren.

It was a really special party. We had a collection for charity and thanked the NHS for all the excellent treatment I'd had. But now the NHS won't fund Abiraterone. We really need this drug. It doesn't seem very expensive when you compare it with the money being paid out to help women who were fitted with PIP breast implants and now need them taken out.

The NHS even pay for people to have tattoos removed. Why do people with prostate cancer come last on the list? ☹



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