

The ChOLLECTIVE World Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month Transcript

Introductory Slate: The ChOLLECTIVE Logo, tagline underneath: “Uniting Stories, Inspiring Hope, Empowering the Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) Community”

Lower Thirds: **Karla, Living with Cholangiocarcinoma**

Karla: I found out I had cholangiocarcinoma when I went to the ER, and I was diagnosed immediately. You just go into a fog. You just kind of disconnect.

Lower Thirds: **Kathy, Living with Cholangiocarcinoma**

Kathy: I learned I had cholangiocarcinoma very unexpectedly. I had been feeling terrific, but some strange blood work results led the doctor to refer me to get a CT scan. I was very much focused on processing what this diagnosis would mean, accepting the fact that I had a rare and very aggressive cancer.

Slate: Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) forms in the bile ducts and accounts for only 3% of all gastrointestinal cancers. (Source: Banalles JM, et al. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2016; 12:261-280)

Slate: Most people with CCA do not have any symptoms until the disease reaches an advanced stage, making it difficult to diagnose early on. (Source: Banalles JM, et al. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2016; 12:261-280)

Slate: **Prioritizing Early Biomarker Testing**

Kathy: Right from the get-go, my oncologist ordered biomarker testing. I didn't know what it was, but he said, "This is what we're going to do". If your doctor does not suggest it, go ahead and push for it. It's just provides such important information.

Lower Thirds: **Alie, Legacy CCA Caregiver**

Alie: Biomarker testing being done early is so important. It is the number one thing that I would recommend to anyone who has been faced with a cholangiocarcinoma diagnosis because, as we've learned in the last ten years, if you have a biomarker that is treatable, then you are opened up to a whole world of different options.

Lower Thirds: Learn more about biomarker testing at TestMyCholangio.com

Lower Thirds: **Katie, Legacy CCA Caregiver**

Katie: My dad did have biomarker testing. He was diagnosed back in 2016, so it was fairly a new concept. And we were lucky to be at a major cancer institute, and they did offer biomarker testing right away. But after working with many other patients and caregivers, I know that that's not always the case.

Slate: **With Knowledge Comes Hope**

Kathy: Surround yourself with a knowledgeable and empathetic medical team. That's so important. You want to seek a second, and maybe third or fourth, opinion. Go for it.

Katie: When I work with other patients and caregivers, I point them to a lot of different resources. Mainly, I point them to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation's website. They have the most up-to-date research, and they have great resources for all of us.

Lower Third: **cholangiocarcinoma.org [CCF Logo]**

Karla: I've learned to be positive and to lean on my own joy, and also to remind myself life is to be lived. Even with this diagnosis, I still keep moving forward, one foot in front of the other. And to remember that life is a journey. You can't stop. You have to keep pushing forward every day.

Closing Slate: [The ChOLLECTIVE logo] The ChOLLECTIVE is a storytelling initiative that aims to bring to life the reality of living with cholangiocarcinoma by highlighting unique journeys, perspectives and learnings of the community.

Visit **TestMyCholangio.com** to access tools and resources to support your cholangiocarcinoma journey.

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