



## Case Study – Lymphoma

This real life story highlights the life-saving power of Best Doctors<sup>®1</sup> – connecting people to the best medical care.



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**Ellen\*, Age 55**  
Canada

### Initial Diagnosis

Ellen was experiencing severe abdominal pain. Despite seeing several doctors and receiving a variety of treatments, including antibiotics, pain killers, anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive therapies, nothing seemed to help. Ultimately, several imaging studies showed a thickening of the abdominal fat (mesenterium). Ellen's doctors recommended and performed surgery to remove the abdominal fat, as well as her appendix. After surgery, the pathologist diagnosed Ellen with a mesenteric panniculitis, a benign inflammation of unknown cause. The recommendation from Ellen's doctors was that she continues with immunosuppressive therapy for a year.

### Uncertainty

Within a month of her surgery, Ellen's pain reoccurred. Worse, she began to lose weight. Ellen's doctors assured her that her symptoms were "side effects of the drugs." Trusting her doctors, Ellen continued with the recommended treatment for more than 8 months, yet her symptoms persisted. She became increasingly concerned that something more was wrong and that her condition was not being properly treated. After a year of continuous pain, Ellen turned to Best Doctors.

### The Best Doctors Impact

The Best Doctors panel reviewed Ellen's case with care, and came to a terrifying conclusion: Ellen had been misdiagnosed and mistreated for more than a year! A renowned Best Doctors pathologist examined and analyzed the samples collected during Ellen's earlier treatment, discovering that Ellen had a lymphoma (a malignant cancer of the blood and lymph nodes).

### Treatment

Realizing valuable time had already been lost, Best Doctors immediately contacted one of the world's most respected experts in lymphoma. This oncologist recommended that Ellen be treated with a newly developed immune-therapy. This therapy specifically targets malignant cell, and in combination with chemotherapy can vastly increase the rate of response.