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Subject: BREAST CANCER TESTING CONTROVERSY: "Annie" is a breast cancer survivor and has mixed results about the breast cancer testing controversy. 09:42AM Item # 13

VOCM Radio St. John's
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Product Summary:

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Standing Order: YES
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RANDY SIMMS: We are going to go and say a very good morning here to Annie. Hi, Annie.

ANNIE: Good morning, Randy.

RANDY SIMMS: Good morning.

ANNIE: Yes, I have a couple of topics.

RANDY SIMMS: Sure.

ANNIE: The first one being the breast cancer testing.

RANDY SIMMS: Yeah.

ANNIE: I have a lot of mixed feelings about it. Or I'll say that I am a breast cancer survivor.

RANDY SIMMS: How long ago, Annie?

ANNIE: It'll be five years in October.

RANDY SIMMS: So, if come October you still get a clean bill of health – and you're assuming you will – does that mean that your treatments and all of that stuff will end? Like, like, have you been taking any drugs or anything for this cancer?

ANNIE: No.

RANDY SIMMS: Okay.

ANNIE: I'm going to throw out something that's probably going to be different than you'll normally hear.

RANDY SIMMS: All right.

ANNIE: This is, of course, my opinion, probably be totally disagreed with by a lot of people that's listening to me. I got a question for you, Randy. Is there a known cure for cancer?

RANDY SIMMS: No.

ANNIE: There's not.

RANDY SIMMS: No. Because there's not just one cancer.

ANNIE: Exactly.

RANDY SIMMS: There's thousands of different types.

ANNIE: So, you know, I understand all this upset by the breast cancer women given that I am one. But I'm looking at the other side of it. Cancer is what threatens your life, not lack of treatment.

RANDY SIMMS: Right.

ANNIE: That's the bottom line for me. It's not that I wants to be negative but that's reality for me. That's how I looks at it. Now, I understands all the upset and all the emotional deal that goes along with it. I've been through it. But another question that I have coming out of this is do you get a smooth ride in the medical system anyway?

RANDY SIMMS: When you say smooth ride, what do you mean?

ANNIE: Well, from start to finish for me it was a bumpy path. The people are good in the medical system but the people are human.

RANDY SIMMS: Right.

ANNIE: And when you know this when you start out, you don't get so disappointed, Randy. You know-

RANDY SIMMS: So did, so did you feel that you didn't get good treatment or that you did get good treatment?

ANNIE: It was what I expected. I never had expectations that would, you know-

RANDY SIMMS: You never had-

ANNIE: It's like Christmas morning, when you expect something that you don't get. Like, to me, it's not the people in the medical system. I'll speak on the treatment side of it. I got no faith, personally, in treatment. So, therefore, if I didn't have it, I can't lose it.

RANDY SIMMS: But you had treatment, right?

ANNIE: No, I didn't.

RANDY SIMMS: You were diagnosed with breast cancer?

ANNIE: Yeah. I had surgery and that was it.

RANDY SIMMS: All right. So you had, well, let's, that was the treatment.

ANNIE: That was the treatment, yes.

RANDY SIMMS: They removed the tumour.

ANNIE: Yes. But as in medicines and stuff-

RANDY SIMMS: You had not, you didn't have any Tamoxifen or anything of that nature?

ANNIE: No.

RANDY SIMMS: Now, was it recommended that you have that? Or did, or did, or was it recommended that you not because of the type of cancer that you had?

ANNIE: It was recommended that I didn't have it.

RANDY SIMMS: Okay. So, therefore, so, therefore, because of the, the hormone receptor tests, they determined that Tamoxifen or some other treatment of that type wasn't necessary for you.

ANNIE: That's right.

RANDY SIMMS: And they also, obviously, determined that the cancer when they removed it had not spread.

ANNIE: That's right.

RANDY SIMMS: And they also determined that, as a result of it, you wouldn't even require anything like radiation treatment.

ANNIE: That's right.

RANDY SIMMS: So, you got away, you should, you got to be on your knees thanking God for the easy ride you got.

ANNIE: Yes. However, I wasn't going to accept treatment if it was recommended for me.

RANDY SIMMS: Why not?

ANNIE: All kinds of reasons. And practically what I started out with, there's no known cure for cancer and I don't believe it could cure me. It's, that's it. I had that discussion with a lady one day and she got really upset with me because, you know, she believed in the treatment. But, like, that's my mind, right? My mind, Randy, is there is no cure for cancer so they can only treat it and that's why I said-

RANDY SIMMS: But in your case, in your case, they removed it.

ANNIE: Yes. As far as they know they removed it, you know? They tell you they got things. You get up and you walk away with that positive mindset but you never know that. You, you always live with a certain amount of uncertainty once you, once you've had cancer.

RANDY SIMMS: I think that that's true. I think you live with that for the rest of your days.

ANNIE: Yes. Regardless of what happens in the medical system and the stuff that's out there now, there's a, there's a bottom line to all of it, Randy, there's a bottom line.

RANDY SIMMS: But if they came, if the doctors had come back to you, Annie, at the time and they'd have said now we're going to put you on a pill for the next five years, or we think that, that, we really think you should have chemotherapy, you're saying you wouldn't have taken those things.

ANNIE: No.

RANDY SIMMS: Annie, that would not have been smart. I know how you-

ANNIE: Probably not, but I, I discussed it with, with one of the doctors and he said you can't, they can't force me if I wouldn't have wanted to, I'm not a child.

RANDY SIMMS: Well, that's true, you, you're not required to take treatment, that's true. But I would've, I would say to you that-

ANNIE: I still would, I still would probably have to be in that situation to, to make the call, but I was close enough there, I mean, I was in, I was into the cancer clinic and whatnot talking to the doctors and stuff. My five years haven't been, haven't been smooth either. I've been back and forth four times in the last year for different things that happened to me. But, like I said, that, that's my mindset. I'd have to be faced with that to make the, to make a final call. But-

RANDY SIMMS: All right.

ANNIE: -the bottom line is, like, for me, was like I told you. The bottom line is there is no known cure for cancer; it's only being treated.

RANDY SIMMS: But that's wrong, you know that. Like, like the statement you just made is actually wrong.

ANNIE: Is it?

RANDY SIMMS: Right? Yeah. You know that. It's not that it's only being treated

ANNIE: Is it being cured?

RANDY SIMMS: Right? Cancer has been for many people, been cured. I mean thousands and thousands and thousands of people are surviving any number of cancers today because they are receiving the right treatment. And they're being cured, sure.

ANNIE: They're being cured?

RANDY SIMMS: Sure. Lots of breast cancer, you yourself have been cured as result of, if, if you have no breast cancer and that today you yourself were cured as a result of a treatment they gave you. Right? Which in your case was a surgery.

ANNIE: They won't say they're curing people, though.

RANDY SIMMS: Right? So, prostrate, say a guy had prostate cancer, goes in and has surgery and goes through all the process and whatnot. He comes out of it, he's PSA levels are flattened, he's in perfect health, everything is fine. Wouldn't you have to say that guys been cured of the disease?

ANNIE: Well, you're the first proof for me to hear, having heard say that because the most I gets is negative things. Not from the immediate people in my life but out around, once you've had cancer you got cancer and you got a load of doubt on your head.

RANDY SIMMS: Well, I think that that's true. I guess you have a lot of doubt on your heard, you'll always wonder about your condition and where you are. But I don't think it's fair to say that there are no cures and that nobody ever gets cured. I, well, define what you want as cure. In my case, if I have cancer, I go through a regiment of treatment and I am then cancer-free, I've been cured. That's how I'd look at it.

ANNIE: You would?

RANDY SIMMS: Yeah. How else do you look at it? I don't know. We'll see what others got to say.

ANNIE: Well, that's why I called. I wanted to stir up something about, about what's going on and I'm listening all the time and nobody's come forward to speak and I totally enjoyed talking to you.

RANDY SIMMS: Well, good to talk with you, ma'am.

ANNIE: Thank you.

RANDY SIMMS: You have a great day.

ANNIE: Yeah, bye.

RANDY SIMMS: Take care. Bye-bye. That's pretty interesting stuff what she's saying there. But, to me, I mean, there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of cancers for which there have been hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of treatments determined. Now some treatments can only manage a disease; I understand that, you know, I understand that. But if you, for example, if you, if you go in and someone has leukemia and the treatment for that is a marrow transplant and you find a match and you get a bone marrow transplant and the disease leaves your body as a result of that and you're health as a result of that and five years and six years later you're still healthy. Were you cured? Interesting debate, interesting debate.