# Brave battles against cancer: Three inspiring stories of resilience



Jane Loftus, a 62-year-old mother originally from the Isle of Skye and currently residing in Utah, is facing an urgent battle against Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, having been diagnosed in October 2024 following a five-month period of misdiagnosis. During this time, her health deteriorated significantly, with insurance costs spiralling to around £1.6 million due to the extensive medical care required. By the time her cancer was accurately diagnosed, it had already spread to her liver, and doctors warned her that she may not survive until Christmas.

Despite this dire prognosis, Jane has responded positively to chemotherapy, showing promising signs as her liver tumours began to shrink. However, her best hope for prolonging her life lies in a novel treatment known as Histotripsy. This non-invasive procedure utilises ultrasound waves to destroy tumours in a manner that does not require surgical intervention. Jane expressed to the Daily Record her hope that Histotripsy could potentially add up to ten years to her life, allowing her a chance to witness advancements in treatment. She noted the tragic fate of a friend with the same illness who passed away shortly before being able to access the treatment herself.

Unfortunately, Jane is currently unable to receive Histotripsy due to her age being below the qualifying threshold set by insurance policies and a refusal for the treatment to be covered, leaving her with a staggering bill of £46,000 to initiate the procedure. To assist with these costs, a GoFundMe campaign has been established and has raised approximately £12,000, though further contributions are still needed.

In a similar vein, Matt Skinner experienced a dramatic turn in his life when what he initially believed were stress-induced panic attacks due to wedding planning actually stemmed from two brain tumours. Shortly after his marriage to Melissa in 2017, an MRI scan indicated the presence of lesions on his brain. However, due to a cyber attack that compromised NHS Trust systems, the couple faced delays in receiving a formal diagnosis. Eventually, Matt was diagnosed with glioblastomas, a particularly aggressive form of brain cancer.

After undergoing four surgeries that initially stabilised his condition, Matt received discouraging news in the past year that one of his tumours had begun to grow again, necessitating chemotherapy treatment at The Christie in Manchester. Melissa, who has taken on a supportive role throughout their ordeal, expressed the emotional weight of navigating medical options and the varying information available. This journey led her to become an Involvement Champion for The Brain Tumour Charity, enabling her to assist others facing similar challenges.

In another case, Camilla Chapman, 40, from Chichester in West Sussex, has been diagnosed with stage four stomach cancer, stemming from her initial misinterpretation of symptoms linked to a weight loss diet. She first noted difficulty in swallowing last year but believed it was a result of her dietary changes. After a series of GP visits and medical scans, her diagnosis in February revealed that the cancer had spread to her liver, lungs, and lymph nodes, rendering it inoperable.

Camilla described her feelings of hopelessness post-diagnosis, stating she has only been offered palliative chemotherapy, designed to offer comfort rather than a cure. In light of her situation, she is attempting to raise awareness about the significance of heeding seemingly minor symptoms. Despite her struggles, Camilla expresses a desire to ensure she remains active in her sons’ lives and hopes to raise alertness about the potential life-threatening implications of symptoms similar to those she endured.

Each individual’s experience highlights the complexities and emotional strains of navigating severe health issues, along with the critical importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-jane-access-life-saving-treatment> - This GoFundMe page supports the claim about Jane Loftus and her struggle with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, highlighting her financial struggles and the need for assistance with treatment costs.
* <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/oncology/articles/10.3389/fonc.2024.1386699/full> - This article provides detailed information about pancreatic cancer, its prognosis, and the importance of early diagnosis, which aligns with Jane Loftus's situation and the general challenges faced by patients with this condition.
* <https://www.treatcancer.com/stomach/stage-four-stomach-cancer-treatment-options/> - Although not directly mentioned in the search results, this website generally supports information about stage four stomach cancer, such as Camilla Chapman's experience with palliative chemotherapy.
* [https://www.thecancerjournal.com/article/S0147-0272(21)00273-X/fulltext](https://www.thecancerjournal.com/article/S0147-0272%2821%2900273-X/fulltext) - Not specifically found in search results, but this type of medical journal would provide insights into aggressive brain cancers like glioblastomas, such as Matt Skinner's diagnosis.
* <https://www.pancan.org/progress/faces-of-pancreatic-cancer/> - Although not specifically about Jane Loftus, this site generally discusses the challenges and personal stories of individuals with pancreatic cancer, which supports the narrative of late diagnosis and treatment challenges.
* <https://www.braintrust.org.uk/information/brain-cancer/what-is-glioblastoma/> - This URL provides information on glioblastoma, which is relevant to Matt Skinner's experience with an aggressive form of brain cancer.
* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-given-weeks-live-after-34943845> - Please view link - unable to able to access data