

Unique neurologic symptoms lead to surprising cancer diagnosis

VIDEO	AUDIO
Jason	It started with some lightheadedness, loss of balance, vision changes and abnormal eye movements.
Gregor Heinrich Boca Raton, Florida	"I could be looking at somebody and my eyes are going all over the place." "It's kind of like you're getting off a merry-go-round, and things are moving all the time."
Jason	Fifty-nine-year-old Gregor Heinrich of Boca Raton, Florida, knew something wasn't right, so he saw his local doctor.
Gregor	"And he said, 'I think it's MS, but if it's not MS, we'll probably treat it as MS.' So I wasn't satisfied with that answer."
Jason	For more than six months, Gregor searched for second opinions and still no answers.
Gregor	"I thought maybe it was an ear crystal. I went to a physical therapist. I went to a heart doctor, probably four or five other doctors, and nobody could figure out what was going on."
	----nats up door knocking "Hello!"---
Jason	Eventually, he was referred to Dr. Sebastian Lopez, a neurologist at Mayo Clinic in Florida.
Gregor	"When I first met Dr. Lopez, I remember him coming in the room and said, 'Well, we know what you have.'"
Jason	Surprisingly, it was testicular cancer.
Gregor	"It's probably the last thing you would ever expect to hear, right?"
Sebastian Lopez, M.D. Neurology Mayo Clinic	"When a patient comes in to see a neurologist, they don't expect to be diagnosed with malignancies. But the clinical presentation, the inflammatory

	findings in the spinal fluid, in addition to the biomarker, the Kelch-11 antibody, was all very helpful to help us narrow down to diagnosis."
Gregor	"It was malignant seminoma testicular cancer."
Jason	A cancerous tumor near Gregor's spine was creating an abnormal immune response in his nervous system, known as paraneoplastic encephalitis.
Dr. Lopez	"In these rare paraneoplastic disorders, the immune system is causing an inflammatory process that leads to neurologic dysfunction."
Gregor	"Had it not been for these neurological issues, I would have never known that I had cancer."
Jason	The tumor, roughly the size of an egg, was removed.
Gregor	"Fortunately, it was extremely close, by millimeters, it wasn't touching any other organs, and they were able to extract it."
Jason	And he started cancer treatment immediately.
Gregor	"Had this gone untreated for some amount of time, additional, it would have easily spread and caused, certainly, issues that could have resulted in death or much worse conditions."
Jason	Gregor is on the road to recovery. Those symptoms that provided the initial clues to his cancer still linger, but they have improved.
Gregor	"It's a blessing in a way. It is blessing that I've had these neurological symptoms that led me to this."
Jason	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.