



Gail Lime is a two-time cancer survivor thanks to Meridian Cancer Care's multi-disciplinary and customized approach to her care.

Expert Cancer Care



Meridian Health is the only system partner of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center (NCI-CCC). The coveted NCI-CCC designation is awarded only to 41 centers in the nation. Learn more about the patient advantages of this partnership at MeridianHealth.com/CINJ.

Your Home Team Advantage

Jersey Shore University Medical Center *Building hope with advanced cancer treatment options for area residents.*

AFTER REGAINING HER HEALTH FROM BREAST CANCER 13 YEARS AGO, GAIL Lime, 72, thought she was in the clear. However, last summer she developed some suspicious symptoms. "I wasn't feeling well, I lost a lot of weight, and I had difficulty keeping food down," Gail says.

After an abdominal ultrasound and CT scan, it was discovered that Gail had two grapefruit-sized tumors in her liver. A biopsy showed it was breast cancer metastasis.

Gail's oncologist referred her to **Peter Mencil, M.D.**, a hematologist and oncologist at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. After a consultation, he referred Gail to **Ronald Matteotti, M.D.**, a surgical oncologist at Jersey Shore and a member of **Meridian Cancer Care**.



Ronald Matteotti, M.D.
Board certified in
General Surgery
Neptune
800-560-9990

Customized Cancer Treatment

"With Meridian Cancer Care, we take a multi-disciplinary team approach," Dr. Matteotti says. As medical director of the Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery Program, he led a tumor board, including surgeons, radiation oncologists, interventional

radiologists, and other experts who discussed how best to treat Gail's condition.

"There was a strong argument against surgery since patients with breast cancer metastasis to the liver often respond poorly to that procedure," Dr. Matteotti says. "But given the long interval between her primary diagnosis and recurrence, we decided it was the best approach to take for this particular patient."

Dr. Matteotti discussed the risks and benefits at length with Gail and her daughter, Debbie Dooley. "It was very scary, but we went into the surgery

feeling well-informed, which was reassuring," Debbie says. "Dr. Matteotti went above and beyond to really determine the best course of care for my mom."

Becoming a Two-Time Cancer Survivor

In October, Dr. Matteotti performed a liver resection, in which he surgically removed the right portion of Gail's liver where the tumors were located. He also removed lymph nodes and a margin of surrounding tissue until it was completely clear of cancer cells. The surgery was a success.

"With this surgery, we were pushing the envelope of what's possible in cancer care," Dr. Matteotti says. "We're doing world-class procedures that are usually done at bigger cancer centers because we have the right team in the right place here at Jersey Shore."

Just six weeks post-op, Gail was back to her active lifestyle.

"Everything was perfect," Gail says. "Dr. Matteotti made it clear that he was my surgeon, that he would take care of me, and that I was on his team for life. That's exactly how I felt."