



John Sheldon

“When I met with Dr. Naini, he spent an hour showing me the MRI, explaining where the tumor was located and proposing a strategy to safely remove it,” Sheldon recalls. “By the end of our meeting, he had answered all of my questions and I could tell that he had a personal interest in my well-being. I had the utmost confidence in him doing the surgery.”



Ali Naini, MD

#### MINIMALLY INVASIVE NEUROSURGERY

“The surgery was done using minimally invasive techniques,” Dr. Naini explains. “Even though the tumor was relatively large, the incision was small, and by the following morning Mr. Sheldon felt well enough to ask if he could go home.” In fact, Sheldon was home recuperating three days after his surgery, something he says is “remarkable, when you consider it’s surgery on your brain!”

Sheldon completed a course of radiation therapy and since that time has been taking an oral anti-tumor medication. Three years later, his MRI studies show no signs of the tumor, which was malignant and ordinarily has an average survival of only about one year.

“Our neurosurgeons at Evergreen Hospital offer decades of experience in the full breadth of neurosurgery, from complex spinal reconstruction to computer-guided removal of tumors anywhere in the nervous system,” Dr. Naini states. In fact, Seattle Metropolitan magazine recognized Dr. Naini as one of the “Top Doctors” in Western Washington for 2008.

“People can get through it.  
*I’m living proof.*”

*An unusual headache and a weird difficulty reading telephone numbers brought John Sheldon to Evergreen Hospital in July of 2005, where an MRI revealed a large brain tumor. Surgery was recommended and Sheldon sought second opinions throughout the Seattle area. After thinking through the options, he selected Evergreen’s Dr. Ali Naini.*

#### PERSONALIZED CARE

Dr. Naini points out that Evergreen offers more than just technical expertise – it also provides personalized care. John Sheldon experienced this first hand, when he encountered a medical problem while on vacation in Eastern Washington over the Christmas holidays. With the help of the hospital operators, he was able to page – and reach – Dr. Naini, who was on his way back from a family vacation in Leavenworth. Dr. Naini was able to consult via cell phone with the physicians treating Sheldon at the hospital in Wenatchee. “Given the sensitivity of the problems we treat,” Dr. Naini explains, “I feel it’s vital to be accessible to my patients 24/7.”

That kind of dedication gets Sheldon’s grateful stamp of approval. “I really appreciated being able to talk directly to my neurosurgeon,” he says.

#### “A POSITIVE OUTLOOK”

Today, John Sheldon’s MRI’s are looking good, and he’s happy with a positive outlook. “I feel I got very good care at Evergreen,” he says, “and obviously, I’ve trusted Dr. Naini with my life.”

“Brain cancer is not the end of the world” he adds. “With proper treatment, personalized care and a positive attitude, people can get through it. I’m living proof!”

*For referral to an Evergreen-affiliated neurosurgeon, please call the Evergreen Healthline at 425.899.3000 or visit our Web site at [www.evergreenhealthcare.org](http://www.evergreenhealthcare.org).*