



**Sarcoma
Patients
EuroNet**



**Sarcoma
Advocacy In Action
Award 2019**

The Accidental Activist

Antoinette Barbee, nominated by Sarcoma UK

Antoinette Barbee is a midwife and a mother from Northern Ireland. In October 2019 Antoinette made a remarkable breakthrough when thanks to her tireless campaigning, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists published guidelines around morcellation and created informed consent for women with presumed fibroids who are considering surgery. Antoinette spent months researching, listening to experts and patients, talking to people online and in person, travelling and approaching organisations such as Sarcoma UK and the British Sarcoma Group to gather evidence to drive change. She also spent hours corresponding with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London.

Achievements

In the words of Antoinette, "I really am delighted to hear that the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have introduced guidelines around morcellation and that women with presumed fibroids who are considering surgery will now receive informed consent. Although it's too late for my Mum, who is very sorely missed, I do believe that these guidelines will help other women with uterine sarcomas receive earlier diagnosis, that they will have proper surgical removal

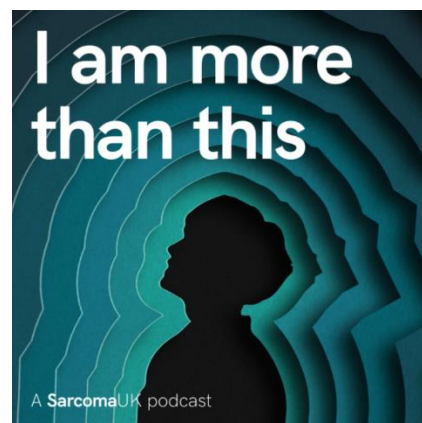
and that this will lead to improved prognosis. This is all I've wanted and I really am delighted."

Additional value for the sarcoma population

This new guidance and information brings much-needed clarity for practitioners and patients and will undoubtedly save lives. Practitioners now have clear

guidance on identifying women who are at risk, and the patient information give clear and realistic statistics on age stratified risks as well as red flag symptoms that may identify a sarcoma.

This will lead to earlier diagnosis of gynaecological sarcomas and reduce the likelihood of morcellating a sarcoma which leads to spread of disease and very poor patient outcomes. Finally, thanks to Antoinette, women in the UK now have the information they need to choose the treatment that is in their best interest.



Sarcoma UK