

UPDATED: Alex Trebek Dies of Pancreatic Cancer at Age 80

He battled Stage IV pancreatic cancer for 18 months.

November 9, 2020 By Caroline Tien

Updated 10/09/2020: On November 8, Alex Trebek died peacefully at home following his battle with Stage IV pancreatic cancer, according to [Jeopardy!](#) He was 80 years old. Trebek, who was the beloved host of the popular game show for 37 years, publicly fought the disease while continuing his hosting duties. According to Jeopardy!, episodes hosted by Trebek will air through December 25, 2020 (his last day in the studio was October 29). There are no plans to replace Trebek at this time.

Trebek is survived by his wife and three children.

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Longtime Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek, who in March 2019 revealed that he had been diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer, has no plans to stop treatment altogether if his current immunotherapy protocol fails to work.

Unlike chemotherapy, which causes the death of cancer cells outright, immunotherapy works by boosting the body's natural defenses.

In a [statement](#) released on the quiz show's social media channels, the 80-year-old Trebek wrote that were he to stop showing signs of improvement, he would resume chemotherapy. "My current numbers are very good, but we will have to be patient with this new immunotherapy program that I am on," he wrote. "But, if it were to stop being successful, I would return to my previous chemo treatment—NOT stop all treatment."

The statement comes days after a passage in Trebek's new autobiography, *The Answer Is...Reflections on My Life*, inspired articles in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and other media outlets. The text in question implied that Trebek, who has hosted Jeopardy! since 1984, had decided to cease medical treatment if his tumor continued to grow.

"I'm going to stick with this current protocol, then that's it," he wrote in the book, which was published last week. "If it doesn't work, I'll probably stop treatment. Quality of life was an

important consideration.”

He added that he’d already talked the matter over with his wife of 30 years, Jean Currivan, and their two children and that he would surrender his hosting duties as soon as he felt incapable of adequately fulfilling them.

“That quote from the book was written BEFORE my current regimen, and I was going through some bad times,” he explained in the statement.

Trebek has openly discussed the physical and psychological struggles that accompany cancer treatment, sharing that he experiences fatigue, severe pain, crying jags and suicidal ideation. In [The Answer Is...Reflections on My Life](#),” Trebek admitted that he sometimes has second thoughts about having gone public with his diagnosis, writing that “it comes with a lot of pressure.” But in an [interview](#) with NPR, he expressed gratitude to his many fans for their support.

“The outpouring from our viewers after I revealed my diagnosis...that caught me by surprise and that humbled me a great deal,” he said.

For more on pancreatic cancer, [click here](#).

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<http://beta.docker.celebhealth.com/article/alex-trebek-clarifies-comments-pancreatic-cancer-treatment>