

“My Child, My Story”

Isabelle's Story

For two months, our 5-year-old daughter Isabelle was screaming with headaches. After an eye exam was OK, she was diagnosed with migraines. In March 2007 she had double vision and was throwing up everyday. Finally she was scheduled for a CT scan. Our lives were changed for ever. On March 8, 2007, “Your child has a brain tumor. Get to Children's Mercy right away!” On March 12, she had her first surgery. The news wasn't good. They couldn't get all of the tumor out. They placed a shunt in to relieve all of the pressure that was built up. We were told that she would have to go through chemotherapy and that they would have to try to get the rest of the tumor out.

That first night in ICU I thought my baby was going to die! The night nurse was wonderful! She helped me so much talking me through everything all night. When she was giving her a blood transfusion, she could see that I was terrified. All she would say is how wonderful Isabelle is doing and how good she looks. I will never forget her.

When we got out of the ICU, we went up on the 4th floor. The nurses were so caring. I would talk to the chemo nurse, crying and begging her to tell me that everything would be ok. She would sit on the floor with me and cry with me. What caring nurses we had. I will never forget her!

While waiting on pathology, the doctors were planning her second surgery. First pathology came back stage 4 cancer. She really didn't have a chance. Pathology was sent again. We waited and waited. I couldn't help but to think about how I was going to have a funeral for my 5-year-old baby that was so full of life. How would I even tell her what is going on?

On March 19 she went in for her second surgery. The surgery nurse came out to tell me that they had started surgery. Isabelle hadn't had her hair washed in over a week, so I asked her if there was any way that they could wash her hair. This wonderful nurse went to the Gift Shop and got some shampoo and washed Isabelle's hair before she woke up. This kindness will never be forgotten!

The nurse came out of the operating room and told us with tears in her eyes, “The doctor is pretty sure that he got out all of the tumor!” On March 21, two days after her second brain surgery, the oncologist came in to her room. Pathology was in. We were so scared. He told us that the report came back a low grade tumor. No chemotherapy. He was more shocked than we were. We got to go home that day.

Isabelle still gets an MRI every four months because there is a little piece of tumor still there. Here we are one year after surgery and there has been no tumor growth. We are so thankful for everything that Children's Mercy has done for us!

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