cancer KIDS

Dear Little Abbie

Beating Wilms Tumor

Abbie was diagnosed with Wilms Tumor Stage 3 on 13th Feb 2007. Since then she has undergone surgery to remove the tumor and her left kidney, chemo-therapy and radiotherapy. She has been such a brave girl through everything.

Abbie Jessica was born to John and Carla on Sunday 23rd November 2003. She had been a healthy happy girl till Feb 07.

On Sunday 4th February Abbie had a fall off a chair and cut straight across her eyebrow. We immediately jumped in the car and headed straight to A&E where we were seen quickly. Thankfully Abbie's eye was ok, which was our biggest concern. Because of where the cut was they booked us in at The Royal Surrey Hospital Monday morning where they have specialist surgeons to stitch this delicate area. It was a very frightening time for us to watch our daughter being put to sleep and needing an operation.

During the week Abbie was recovering from her surgery I noticed her tummy seemed quite large and bulging more so on the left hand side. I booked to see the nurse Monday 12th Feb where she seemed quite concerned and sent us straight away to A&E. They gave Abbie the once over and decided as it was late to come back in the morning where she would have some scans. We had no idea at this point what was wrong, the only symptom she had was a big tummy.

We went back bright and early the next morning where she had X Rays, Ultrasound and a CT scan. We all found this very de stressing, our little girl going through all these tests. Later that night we had the news that would change our world forever, our baby had CANCER! What a shock, I will never ever forget that moment. They kept us at the hospital that night and as you can well imagine we didn't sleep a wink just worrying what the future held for us all.

Wednesday 14th Feb 2007 we headed to the Royal Marsden Hospital where we met Cathy our specialist who explained that they think she has a Wilms Tumor and she would need chemotherapy and surgery involving the removal of her left kidney. So many new words and information to take in, it was so scary. Abbie was booked in on Fri 16th Feb for a biopsy and a port fitted in her chest at St Georges Hospital, London. The biopsy confirmed what they suspected. Yes it was Wilms and she would need 5 weeks of chemo to shrink the tumor and then the surgery to remove the kidney followed by more chemo.

Tuesday 27th March Abbie had her surgery and the outcome was her tumor was classed as Stage III Favorable Histology meaning it was cancer that responds well to treatment, thank god. The tumor was contained but a few lymph nodes had signs of cancer. This now meant she would be on a 26 week protocol including 14 radiotherapy treatments and chemotherapy using 3 different drugs.

Abbie received her last chemo on 26th Oct 2007 then her port was removed on 29th Nov. She will now have Chest X Ray, Ultrasound and examination every 3 months for the next 3 years.

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