

BREAST CANCER JOURNEY

OVERARCHING THEMES

IT WAS TRAUMATIC FOR MY FAMILY, AS WE HAD FAMILY IN PALLIATIVE CARE

ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF IS IMPORTANT

LEGEND

✗ GAPS ★ IDEAS

PRE-DIAGNOSIS & SCREENING

30 YEAR OLD MUM OF TWO

APRIL 2019

PAIN IN ARMPIT

I SAW RAPID CHANGES IN FEEL, "ORANGE PEEL" SKIN



STARTED LACTATING BLOOD

I BEGGED TO BE REFERRED TO SURREY BREAST HEALTH CLINIC, BUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN SAID NOT NECESSARY



FAMILY PHYSICIAN SUGGESTED PSORIASIS CREAM FOR ARMPIT

1ST VISIT 4 MONTH WAIT
2ND VISIT 4 WEEK WAIT

✗ REPEAT TESTING

WENT FOR A MAMMOGRAM x2

SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT!



LONG WAIT FOR MRI

✗ HAD TO ADVOCATE FOR MYSELF AND CALL EVERYDAY

DO I NEED TO GO TO THE USA?!

SPECIALIST TOOK ONE LOOK:

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE CANCER



★ WENT TO BREAST HEALTH CLINIC

WHERE CARE BECAME MORE STREAMLINED. FELT I HAD ADVOCATES.

BIOPSY OF MASS CAME BACK BENIGN

BUT COULD STILL FEEL LUMP, SEE DIMPLING SKIN, VERY DENSE BREAST



GALACTOGRAM WAS PAINFUL!

CLINICIAN SAID THEY AREN'T THAT EFFECTIVE!

ULTRASOUND AT RCH x2

✗ EACH TIME HAD TO RETURN TO FAMILY PHYSICIAN



★ HAVING MY OWN SPACE TO PROCESS DIAGNOSIS WAS SO HELPFUL

DIAGNOSIS

THEY CALLED ME BEFORE I WAS OFFICIALLY DIAGNOSED



WE'VE BOOKED YOU FOR A DOUBLE MASECTOMY NEXT WEEK

SEPT. 2019



EVENTUALLY HAD MRI AND ULTRASOUND THAT SHOWED LARGE MASS

TREATMENT

OCT. 2019

BILATERAL MASECTOMY



CANCER COMPLETELY REMOVED

BREAST EXPANDERS INSERTED

NO CANCER IN LYMPH NODES

SAW ONCOLOGIST 8 WEEKS LATER, NO NEED CHEMOTHERAPY OR RADIATION

★ CAN WE OFFER COUNSELLING TO MORE PEOPLE?

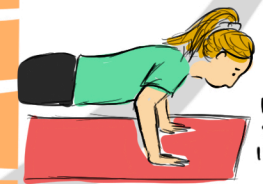
✗ CONTACTED BC CANCER FOR COUNSELLING, BUT WAS TURNED AWAY AS I DIDN'T RECEIVE TREATMENT

POST-TREATMENT

I WANT TO HELP OTHERS BY SHARING MY STORY



MY OUTLOOK ON LIFE HAS CHANGED



MY CHEST STRENGTH IS REDUCED

GRATING CHEESE IS HARD!

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

OCT. 2020

TESTS CAME BACK 18 MONTHS LATER:

NOT GENETIC CANCER