

Bailey O'Brien: Testimonial...

In late August 2010 I was diagnosed with a recurrence of malignant melanoma. My previous experience with melanoma occurred in the winter of 2007-08, when a suspicious mole on my right temple was removed, biopsied, and revealed to be cancerous. Following the mole biopsy was a wide excision of the skin, followed by a skin graft to cover the area, as well as a sentinel lymph node biopsy. This biopsy near my right ear showed that the cancer had metastasized, and was classified as stage 3 skin cancer. A parotidectomy was performed, in which 45 lymph nodes in my neck were removed. Luckily, none showed evidence of cancer. To decrease my risk of recurrence, I received 19 treatments of interferon, an immunity enhancer, administered over several hours each day.

I was closely monitored in the following months and years with routine PET scans and skin examinations, until a PET scan in August 2010 revealed a mass just behind my jaw. A CT-guided needle biopsy was performed, and the tissue sample contained malignant melanoma cells. A 7-hour surgery followed in September to remove the tumor, taking the time to avoid permanent damage to my major facial nerve. 10 days after the procedure, an MRI revealed that the surgeon missed the tumor by 1 millimeter, and another surgery was necessary. During the 5 weeks between surgeries, another mass formed behind my right ear, sticking out and pressing against the ear lobe. Nearly 12 hours were necessary to meticulously remove both lesions, removing some bone from my skull, and the lower half of my ear. As a result, there was significant, although temporary, paralysis of the whole right side of my face.

As a precaution, 20 radiation treatments were prescribed 6 weeks after the surgery, which finished up in December 2010. In early January 2011, a bump appeared under my chin, and a biopsy revealed that it was melanoma yet again. A CT scan indicated that I had 7 total tumors, located in my neck, lung, and spine. Because I did not qualify for the most promising clinical trials, I decided to take the alternative route. In February 2011, I went to Mexico for a few weeks of treatment, and returned home in March, continuing my treatment plan, which included diet, detoxification, vaccines, and supplements. In late March, two days before my 21st birthday, I had a PET scan, and by the next day, I had the results. Miraculously, there was no sign of cancer. A second PET scan in July again gave me a clean bill of health. Now, I continue to follow my treatment plan as suggested by my doctor in Mexico, proactively protecting my health.

Mr. Barron began creating my prosthetic ear in December, while I was receiving my radiation treatments, and I went back for the final touch-ups in July. Taking home the prosthesis was an emotional experience, and I am very grateful to have met Mr. Barron. He is compassionate, caring, and kind, and his work is exquisite, unmatched by anyone in the world.

Bailey O'Brien

