

Kayleigh and Cassidy: Journey to a Diagnosis

Cassidy: So she was in the coma for what? 12 days. It was day 10 that we finally got the diagnosis back. They don't do chemotherapy at that hospital so they had to get her into an ambulance, all wired up to everything. They had a team of nine: specialists, paramedic, transfer team to get her over to a hospital for chemotherapy, which was the Foothills in Calgary. Any time that I had the mental ability to try to figure out what was going on; looking into symptoms and diagnosis, and ok we think it's cancer. All the doctors say we don't know for sure if it's cancer. I was lucky enough to be on the inside rounds on the ICU doctors to learn how widespread the lymphoma was in her body. So all the CT scan showed 30% of her lung tissue was cancer.

Her liver was three times it's regular size with lymphoma cells. All of her internal organs were completely inflated. Her body was probably twice the volume that it normally would be. You couldn't see any of her joints or anything. Like it was just inflated with fluids to keep her alive and control her physiology on a minute by minute basis for those 12 days in the ICU. We met with the oncologist and we said, we know chemo is rough. Is there any alternatives? And they said no. Based on what we know, we have to hit her with chemo in the next 24 hours or she probably won't make it.