

Kayleigh and Cassidy: Stage IV Lymphoma to Remission

Kayleigh: I can start at the beginning. In the middle it's going to get very hazy for me and I'm going to pass it off. So it actually all began, in December 2019, but to bring it back actually at the end of September 2019 beginning of October I had a full physical with my GP. Like everything was looked at. A massive blood panel. We were starting family planning, so we want to make sure our health was on point first. So we were extremely healthy and I was basically told you're a healthy 30 year old woman. You should go and make babies. So that was our focus at the time. So we were like I said, extremely healthy. And then right at the end of November beginning of December 2019, I get this wicked cold. Now this is the busiest time of year for me at work, so I just think I'm stressed. It's cold and flu season. That's normal.

It was probably one of the worst colds I've ever had in my life. It dragged on. For me, now this is pre-pandemic times, but for me to not engage in social activities because I'm sick, that just doesn't happen for me. I'm a very social person. So I wasn't going to Christmas events. I wasn't going to work. I was working from home and at the same time I found out I was pregnant. So I just chalked it up to my immune system's lowered because I'm pregnant. And then I got a swollen lymph node in my groin but I was going to see my GP to confirm the pregnancy. So I decided I'll wait a week and talk to her about it then. So I go to my GP.

She's like, "yeah we should take an ultrasound of that", but other than that everything was focused on the fact that I was newly pregnant. So we didn't really focus on it too much and why would we, I was completely healthy two months ago. Then mid December hit and I started to get these back pains and it was really, really bad in my mid to lower back. I didn't sleep from that point until I entered the emergency room permanently and the first week of January. So it was about three weeks with maximum two hours of sleep a night, working 12 hour days, not really paying attention to my body because I was so focused on work. And I am taking the vitamins for the baby kind of thing. Fast forward to Christmas we went to Edmonton, Alberta to be with our families and see all of our friends. I did not participate in Christmas. I did not see any of my friends. I had a resting heart rate of 120. So we went to the Emergency. I was kept overnight. They ran all the tests that they could run but I was pregnant. So they couldn't do CTs or anything like that. And they essentially told me you're fine-g o home. They were worried about clot. They're worried about a blood clot at the time.

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Cassidy: They said something's off, we don't know what, we want to monitor you. And they transported her to another hospital to do a type of scan, which I can't recall now, where they put the tracing gas in our lungs to see if there's any blood clots in her lungs that was causing airway problems and elevated heart rate. That all came back negative so they said, go home. We begged them not to send us home. We said "nothing is right. This is not a traditional pregnancy pain or symptoms." The doctors just said, "we're overwhelmed, this is a busy hospital. We can't help you."

Kayleigh: So when we went to go leave, I fought with them and I don't normally do that. I'm pretty, like, I try and get along with people, I'm more complacent in that way. I don't want confrontation with a doctor at a hospital, a busy hospital. It was probably minus 30 out at the time in Edmonton. So there was a lot of people there with frostbite, from the more homeless population that kind of thing. So they weren't lying when they said they were busy, they were. They couldn't find anything wrong with me. So we go home and--

Cassidy: They just couldn't put their finger on.

Kayleigh: So we go home and nothing really changes. I'm frustrated with myself at this point, I start to think, "is this just in my head? Am I just losing it because of pregnancy?" I didn't know?

Cassidy: Everyone was telling us, they were like, yeah, that's pregnancy.

Kayleigh: Like,

Cassidy: I don't think so.