

At the age of 13 years old, Ruthie has been a very active soccer player...she sustained a concussion on the field and complained of some soreness in her neck/clavicle area...I took her to the chiropractor thinking it would help and weeks later Ruthie informed me that she had a lump that I needed to feel...it was hard and wouldn't move, I knew it wasn't good!

On February 15th, 2024 Ruthie went to the pediatrician and was sent to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to have imaging done of the lump...The imaging came back with multiple masses found and the doctors informed us that it was some type of lymphoma. The next morning she went for a biopsy...they were unable to put her under anesthesia because they said it was too risky as the mass above her clavicle was wrapped around her internal jugular vein...she went through the biopsy with local anesthetic! She was discharged the following day after...I had to learn to give her shots of blood thinner twice a day as she had a high risk of blood clots forming. It took around 2 weeks to get the results of her biopsy and she had a PET scan...Stage 4 Hodgkins lymphoma. She had surgery to place her port and chemo the following Monday. Ruthie endured 12 chemo treatments spaced 2 weeks apart. She handled it all with courage and grace...the chemo treatments would wipe her out for 3-5 days.

About half-way through she started losing her hair...this part was hard for a teenage girl! Ruthie didn't complain or say why me...she was just determined to beat it! On August 23rd we met with her oncologist after a repeat PET scan...this was the best day ever! Ruthie beat her cancer and she rang the bell!!