

Ava's Store

Ava was diagnosed with a high grade neuroepithelial brain tumor on October 22, 2012. This page was created to unite everyone to pray for Ava's health. To read more about her journey, click on the "About" link.

Ava's diagnosis: A high grade neuroepithelial brain tumor (found in the right temporal lobe)

A more detailed diagnosis: A diagnosis of malignant glioneuronal tumor was considered but her tumor had more PNET-like elements. (PNET stands for primitive neuroectodermal tumor). A diagnosis of glioblastoma with PNET component was considered but the entity is primarily restricted to the adult population. So, therefore, she received the generic diagnosis of a high grade neuroepithelial brain tumor.

Three weeks before Ava's diagnosis, she began having staring seizures which led us to take her to her pediatrician. He began to think that maybe this was something she would possibly grow out of in her early teen years. But to be on the safe side, he ordered an EEG. We had the EEG done and during the test, they actually got Ava to have a seizure by blowing (hyperventilating) on a pinwheel. Her seizure lasted for over a minute. Since her EEG came back abnormal, he ordered an MRI to be done. This is when we found out about her tumor.

We found out on a Monday, we met with the neurosurgeon the next day (Tuesday) and she was scheduled for surgery on Thursday, October 25th, of the same week. Dr. Frederick Boop at Le Bonheur was able to make a complete resection of the tumor. But because of the aggressiveness of the tumor, she had to immediately undergo radiation and chemotherapy. Her first day of chemotherapy was November 13th and her first day of radiation was November 14th. She will have 6 1/2 weeks of radiation combined with an oral chemotherapy. After the 6 1/2 weeks, she will switch over to two other kinds of chemotherapy and that will be up to one year of treatment. As any major updates come up, I will post them here in this section.

UPDATE: Ava had her MRI scan after radiation treatment on January 17, 2013 and it came back clear of any tumor.

UPDATE: Ava started her IV chemotherapy and another different oral chemotherapy on January 23, 2013.

UPDATE: Ava had an MRI scan on March, 19, 2013 and it came back clear of any tumor.

UPDATE: Ava had an MRI scan on May 13, 2013 and it came back clear of any tumor.

UPDATE: Ava had an MRI scan on August 13, 2013 and it came back clear of any tumor.