

In July of 2016, shortly after her 6th birthday, Arianna was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. She had her first surgery in August which due to the location of the melanoma (the bottom of her right foot) she was not able to walk for around 6 weeks. When the surgeons did the initial surgery they also biopsied 3 lymph nodes in her groin to see if it had spread internally. Unfortunately that was the case. At this point her cancer was considered stage 3 and required a second surgery to remove any remaining lymphnodes in the area of the one that tested positive. By the grace of God those ones came back negative. About 6 weeks after her lymphnode dissection she began an iv immune therapy called interferon which she will be on until October of this year. The first four weeks of this treatment required trips to upmc children's in Pittsburgh five days a week as the medication was first administered through a picc line she had implanted from her arm to her chest. Now I give her the lower dose shots at home 3 days a week. On the bright side she is now cancer free for 4 months! But this is something that will have to be closely monitored for possibly the rest of her life. But if you look at her through every aspect of this process it's amazing how none of it broke her spirit nor changed the strong and happy little girl I am blessed to call my daughter!