

Jonah

Six year old Jonah was diagnosed with a tumour and needed an operation to remove his kidney. Jonah had to learn to walk again after his operation but has battled back and is now in remission.

Six year old Jonah was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour on his kidney in June 2018. Prior to this Jonah had been really run down getting virus after virus and struggling to fight them off including a bad case of chicken pox which lasted for 8 weeks. Jonah continued to feel unwell with nose bleeds, tiredness and a bloated tummy but he also has a blood glucose condition which was thought to be the cause of his symptoms initially. However, one day, Jonah went in to school and doubled up in pain and was vomiting bile. He was rushed to his local emergency department and was then transferred to Alder Hey, where he was diagnosed with a tumour on his kidney.

Jonah had chemotherapy and then surgery to remove his kidney at Alder Hey which is a centre of excellence for treating cancer. The cancer had also spread to his lungs but thankfully this was cleared with chemotherapy.

Jonah had to learn to walk again as he couldn't even sit up after his operation and needed physio to regain his strength, and built a really good relationship with many of the staff on the oncology ward including Play Specialist Pip and staff nurse Emily.

Pip and Emily were vital in helping Jonah with his recovery, helping to make his stay fun with play, recreation and activities to relieve boredom and create a child friendly environment for Jonah and his family.

Jonah was discharged as an inpatient in August 2018 after being told his cancer is in remission.

Dad Paul said "The chemo really knocked Jonah. It was so hard seeing him start to get better then get a knock back and having to start all over again. We can see bits of Jonah coming back but it's a long process, he's cancer free but he's still tired and sick a lot and can only go back to school part time so he misses out on a lot. He is having psychological support as it's really taking its toll on him. But we're so proud of how strong and determined he is."

Mum Lorraine said "The staff at Alder Hey really got Jonah and us through some dark times. Emily the nurse was so special with him; she even shaved his head for him and somehow made it fun. We all felt really comfortable with her and he always looked forward to seeing her. Pip the Play Specialist was always brilliant, again making everything fun and as 'normal' as it could be in those circumstances. All the staff at Alder Hey are angels."

Jonah loves playing video games, so much so he wants to be a 'Youtuber' when he's older with his own channel dedicated to gaming. With the bravery and determination Jonah shows every day, we know he can do anything he puts his mind to!