

Zoe

8 Years Old

Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) at Age 5



Zoe was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) 3 weeks before her sixth birthday. Over Thanksgiving break in 2015, she started getting fevers. I initially took her in to her pediatrician where they ran a number of tests with negative results, and I then asked for a blood test. I made an appointment first thing for the following week, but with fevers appearing I was told to go to the ER. We were sent home with a “viral suppression”. My Mom gut and my pediatrician’s persistence got me back in.

After 7 weeks from the first fever, a bone marrow biopsy was recommended. I got the call within 6 hours. We were told to pack for a week and come back to the hospital. Treatment was hard for all of us. I cried for days while Zoe would sleep 23 hours a day. She was on steroids for 4 weeks straight and gained so much weight she was uncomfortable. Her hair shed. We look back and tease her that she was the last samurai!

Zoe’s brother was only 4 at the time and didn’t quite understand what was going on. He too missed out for the next two years. We couldn’t commit to anything for him. We didn’t know when another hospital stay would arise. We were isolated for what seemed like forever. Life as we know it was no more! Friends and family stayed away. Sometimes I think they just didn’t know what to say.

Zoe will ring the bell at her clinic visit May 9, 2018. We hope she has minimal side effects from decade old medication. All of these kids fighting this battle truly are resilient.

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