

TRISTEN

12 YEARS OLD
Diagnosis: Retinoblastoma



I had cancer at 3 years old. I had my eye removed. I remember having to wear an eye patch. I don't remember much since I was so young at the time. I feel I am a normal kid now, except that I am missing an eye. I enjoy video games, running, science, and math. I hope to be a game developer or YouTuber when I am older.

My entire family was supportive during treatment. Mom and dad were at every appointment. Grandma retired to come stay with us so mom and dad could work.

I wish I wouldn't have gotten cancer at all.

What have I learned from my diagnosis? Never, Ever Give Up!

-Tristen

As a parent, it was hard hearing the news that Tristen had cancer because cancer of other types runs in our family. I have lost loved ones to cancer and certainly didn't want to lose my son or see him go through the pain or treatments. One good thing that came out of the diagnosis was we got to meet others with the Retinoblastoma community. Tristen has grown in confidence over the years. He is not afraid of his eye and telling others about his story.

As a parent I am diligent to make sure everyone in the household sees a doctor regularly. I also try to savor all the good times we do have. I take lots of pictures.

If you find yourself in this situation, find support from others. The community will help support you. It is tough mentally, physically, and emotionally. You are not in this alone.

Think about all the smiling faces you have helped while you run or walk!

