

Jessi's Story

I will try to make this short and sweet. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Jessi Thorne. I'm a 25-year-old mother who needs a lifesaving brain surgery that my insurance is not going to cover because it is out of network. I have a beautiful two-year-old son; some days he is the only thing that keeps me going. I am a seven year Tualatin resident and just thought maybe I could get more people to share it on their social media in an effort to help.

A little more than a year after giving birth to my son, I started feeling as though one leg was going numb. I ignored the symptoms for a few weeks until it spread to the entire right side of my body. I couldn't taste, had constant headaches, dizzy spells and utter exhaustion.

Around 8 months ago they found an 11 MM pineal cyst in my brain. Fast forward to today, it has grown to 18 MM and is now almost pressing up against the cerebral aqueduct in my brain. When that happens, it will cut off the flow of my CSF fluid, and from there, I can go into a coma from which I won't wake up.

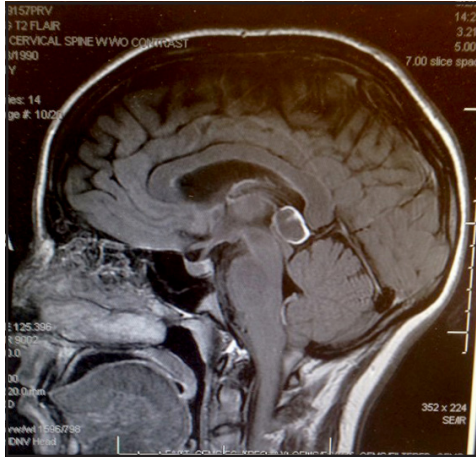
As you can see in my x-rays the cyst has almost reached its growth limit. The Doctors recommended that I get a medical bracelet, so if I were ever to pass out, the responders would know about my condition and could get me into emergency surgery. Every day I suffer from headaches, extreme fatigue, vertigo, insomnia, motion sickness, numbness in half my body, and many other things.

The biggest struggle of this ordeal is taking care of my little one emotionally, physically, and monetarily. I am now limited on the activities I am allowed to partake in, no riding quads, no jumping around, no trampolines, no carnival rides (which is unfortunate when you have a two-year-old) More so, I don't have the energy to give him the attention that he deserves on a day to day basis.

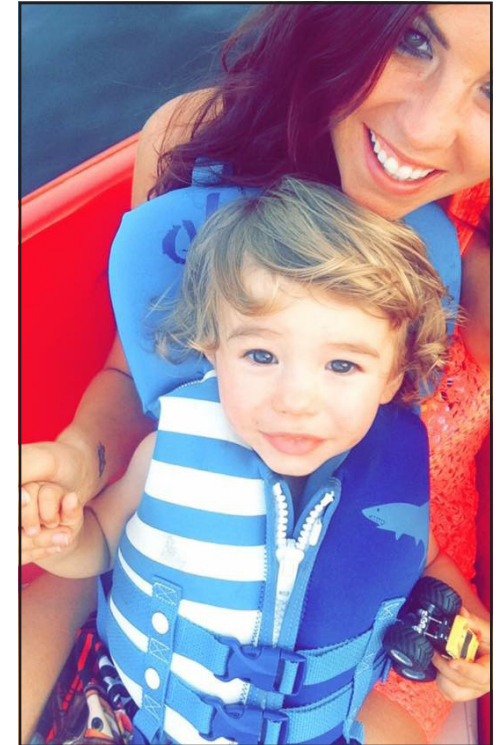
I have gone rounds with the Oregon Health Plan, but they have decided they will not cover the endoscopic removal, saying they'd rather wait until the symptoms get much worse, so I had to go out of network which means I need to pay for 50% of the surgery. With the help of the Skull Base Institute in Los Angeles, we have estimated the out of pocket costs to be a little over \$80,000.

The pineal cyst removal is the most dangerous type of brain surgery because of the location of the pineal gland, it is directly in the center of the brain. I am hoping to get it taken out by Dr. Shahinian of the skull base institute, as he has pioneered a fully endoscopic removal.

So here I sit, I have been told that if my headache gets excruciating to call 911, and just to try and take it easy. So I am pleading not only for a chance to continue to live my life, but for my son to continue to have a mother, one that has the ability to give him the life he deserves.



Brain Scan showing Pineal Cyst, center.



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Publisher's Note:

Jessi needs our help and she needs it now. If you are able to donate, that would be fantastic, but if not, sharing this story with your friends on Facebook or other means would be very helpful as well. I've posted it to our website and Facebook page if you'd like to share it. We can make a difference. - JC

Find Out More:

Learn how you can help at www.youcaring.com/jessi-thorne-446071