

Meet Our Hero: Addison Hill

Condition: Angiosarcoma

Birthday: July 8th, 2008

Primary Doctor: Dr. David Malkin

Addison's story begins in August of 2021, with an ordinary summer day that resulted in an unusual discovery. Addison mindlessly adjusted her bathing suit and was alarmed when she felt a painless lump the size of a golf ball in her right breast. After sharing the discovery with her mom, Jessica, they quickly made an appointment with their family doctor.

On October 12th, after a month of investigation, Addison's family received devastating news that no parent should ever have to hear. A biopsy confirmed that Addison had a cancerous tumour in her chest. She was immediately referred to the oncology department at the Hospital for Sick Children. A week later, the family learned that Addison is battling a very rare and aggressive form of cancer known as, Angiosarcoma. This cancer can occur anywhere in the body but most often, is found in the skin, breast, liver, and spleen. While it was detected in her breast it is not considered to be breast cancer.



She began chemotherapy treatment immediately at SickKids while she waited to have her tumour surgically removed at Mount Sinai Hospital. On November 22nd, three surgeons successfully removed the nine-pound tumour growing in her chest. Her breast, pectoralis muscles and 37 lymph nodes were removed she also had a skin graft done on her right thigh. It was later confirmed that 14 of the removed lymph nodes were cancerous. Not even a full 24 hours after surgery, Addison was up and walking around and was cleared to go home a week later. Addison would need to resume chemotherapy in the new year for roughly six months while simultaneously starting intensive radiation for seven weeks to ensure her scans remain clear.

In January 2022, Addison was prepared to resume chemotherapy, but an unexpected allergic reaction occurred. When she initially started chemotherapy in the fall, she did experience a mild allergic reaction, but this time it was severe. The treatment was immediately stopped and within seconds she had eight staff at the foot of her bed. An EpiPen was administered, and she was kept overnight for observation. Her SickKids oncologist, Dr. Malkin decided to postpone her treatment and try again in a week with proactive measures in attempt to reduce her reaction.

The following week not only did Addison continue to have a severe allergic reaction, but Dr. Malkin shared that the tumor in her chest was in early stages of regrowth, and she had new lesions forming in her liver. The defeat was felt as a family, but Addison's optimism was contagious.

A new cocktail of chemotherapy was prescribed and, Addison was able to resume the next round on January 31st. The new drugs are more potent, so each round is only three days with a three week break in between rounds. However, the intensity of the treatment pairs with very unpleasant symptoms that have resulted in multiple admissions over the past few months. Addison has been confronted with many



unexpected hurdles. Sometimes even the strongest cookies crumble, but Addison never fails to reclaim her strength.

After a couple of very trying months, on March 21st, Addison had a lot to celebrate. With a total of 36 treatments, she had her last day of radiation, and she completed her third round of chemotherapy. On April 11th, Addison will start her fourth round of chemotherapy, followed by scans to evaluate how the cancer is responding.

Addison's experience with cancer has taken so much from her over the past five months, but it has not taken away her positive energy, great sense of humor and huge heart. She never fails to make her SickKids team smile. Some of her favourite things include basketball, cuddling her dog Nova, creating TikToks with her sister and friends, and enjoying the outdoors.

"SickKids for us has been a home away from home. The staff go out of their way to help Addison feel loved and special. We can't say enough great things about having the care that we have at a world class hospital. Dr Malkin treats Addy like she is a family member. So many staff here love Addison, Jocelyn, Ally, and Callie have a special place for her here on the 8th floor and often come to see Addison for some smiles if they need some cheering up! Addison makes a connection with everyone she meets!" – Jessica Hill (Addison's mom)



For those of you who do not know Addy's story of how she got here, please read her story below that SickKids has created as part of her becoming a SickKids Ambassador ❤️

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The Hill Family is very excited about the help and generosity of others, we will be able to give back on July 9th to this amazing hospital that has led us up to this moment right now 🙏❤️

Let's break some records for Sarcoma research 🧡



**HELP US
FUNDRAISE FOR
SICKKIDS AND
CELEBRATE OUR
WARRIOR
ADDISON**

- Food
- Craft Sales
- Basketball Games
- Outdoor activities
- Face painting and much more.....

**JULY
09
2022**

**LOCATION:
Centre Wellington
District High School
*Rain or Shine**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**