



Improving Lives • Finding the Cure

PATIENTS  
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PROGRESS

2011

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I just sent my daughter off to college, but when she was in grade school, frankly the odds were good that I wouldn't live to see the day. There were so few treatments for myeloma. Luckily, there are many options today.

In January, 2000, I sat down to put on my shoes—and my life has never been the same.

I got a shooting pain in my back. I was 36. I figured I'd overdone it and pulled a muscle.

It went away—at first, but you know the rest . . . It came back. As myeloma.

I had two little kids. A wife. I was the sole breadwinner. I was working hard, enjoying the kids. I'd figured I'd have plenty of time for everything.

So I asked the doctors if it was curable. They said, “no.” It scared the hell out of me. How was I going to take care of my family?

But it was treatable, they said.

Well—back then, “treatable” was different from what we have now. There weren't a lot of choices.

First, we tried radiation.

Then I had a stem cell transplant.

That worked great, after the 8 months or so of recovery time, that is. I got back to work. Life seemed pretty normal for awhile. But after 3 years, my myeloma came back. Another transplant was out of the question because I'd had a bad allergic reaction during the first one.

We went to see the doctor, we already knew I was relapsing. I was terrified. There is nothing worse than seeing your cancer come back. But we also knew about REVLIMID®. And when the doctor said that was an option, it set our course.



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At first, it was almost scary, just taking a pill. We made a ritual out of it though—the whole family would toast and say, “Kill those myeloma cells.”

And within three months, I went into complete remission.

That was six years ago. I’m still in remission. I coached my son’s Little League and basketball teams all the way to the town championships. I’m active with my kids.

A couple of years ago, I traveled the country in the Myeloma Mobile with my favorite people—my family—talking about the hope for myeloma patients because of novel therapies. I got to thank personally the folks at the pharma companies who make them and—best for me—to stand on the pitcher’s mound at Fenway stadium during a RedSox game.

I still play with my band—guitar and vocals, but the love of my life and my main hobby is my family. It’s a gift that I can be with them. I’m not going to let that go.