

On April 14, 2008 I was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. The news of course was shocking, especially because two doctors insisted I had fibroadenoma (non-cancerous tumor). On April 17, 2008 I went in for a lumpectomy. They removed the two tumors (connected into one). The tumor they removed was smaller than what was originally thought and less aggressive than what was originally thought. The biopsy originally diagnosed the tumor as an 8 on a scale of 9 for aggressiveness, now it is down to a 6.

This is where I thank all my friends and family for praying! It helped! The information we found out was positive from this surgery. The cancer has not spread into the lymph nodes, margins were clean, and the tumor was ER negative, meaning it is not affected by hormones. At this appointment we also chose to do the gene testing. If I have a gene mutation, called BRCA1 or BRCA 2, then we have reason why I have breast cancer. We also know that we have to be even more aggressive and definitely do the bilateral mastectomy and removal of ovaries.

If you have these mutations you have an 80% chance of getting breast or ovarian cancer. So, my cancer could come back. I should receive the results of this test around the second to third week of May. We then had to sit and wait until the oncology appointment, which occurred April 30.

April 30, 2008 - This was so far the scariest of the entire ordeal. I respect my oncologist and feel at ease with her in charge. Yet, what she still had to say was frightening. Basically, if we don't catch all the stray cancer cells now then I am incurable. So, she presented me with three options... chemo every three weeks for 6 months, chemo every other week for 4 months (dense dose), or a clinical trial. We opted to not choose the clinical trial because my treatment would continue for an additional eight months and if we decide to do the bilateral mastectomy my healing could be slower. We decided to do the dense dose.

After this appointment I move onto scheduling my port surgery for the next day. Wow, two surgeries in two weeks. For me the port surgery is more painful than the lumpectomy - but I can't complain, my four year old niece had to go through with it when she was two. Well, now I have brought you all up to speed to some extent. Chemo starts Wed., May 7. I will blog more then. Again thank you for all the kind words, thoughts, and most of all prayers!