

## **A Leap of Faith: My Cancer Journey**

February 2019 marked the beginning of my journey with cancer. It started with a persistent cold, cough, and fever, which I initially dismissed as a viral infection. But as the days went by, my condition worsened, and I began to experience debilitating headaches and ear pain.

On February 16, 2019, I woke up to a terrifying reality - I had lost vision in my left eye. My world was turned upside down, and I was thrown into a whirlwind of uncertainty. Two days later, I met with Dr. Jyoti Kumar, who ordered a blood test that would change my life forever, my WBC count was 3,27,000.

The diagnosis was devastating - Acute Undifferentiated Leukemia with 70% blast cells and Mutation detected.

But as I looked into the eyes of my loving husband, Ameya, and my 1 year old little princess Kimaya. I knew I wasn't alone. They both stood by me, a rock of strength and support, as we embarked on a journey that would test our resolve, our love, and our will to live together.

The journey was grueling- 40 days of induction chemotherapy, multiple hospitalizations, blood and platelet transfusions, Growth Factor injections, and four cycles of Hyper CVAD - Arm A & Arm B. Each cycle brought its own set of challenges, from excruciating pain to debilitating fatigue.

But I refused to give up. With Ameya by my side, I found the strength to persevere. I was shifted to the isolation ICU; underwent radiation therapy for 10 days, and endured countless tests and procedures.

But Ameya was always there, holding my hand, whispering words of encouragement, and reminding me that I was stronger than I thought. He was my guiding light in the darkest of times, my safe haven when the storms raged on.

And then there were the medical heroes who saved my life. Dr. Jyoti Kumar, Dr. Punit Jain, and the entire medical team at Apollo Hospital, Navi Mumbai, were angels in disguise. Their expertise, compassion, and dedication inspired me to keep fighting, to never give up, even when the odds seemed insurmountable.

Today, as I look back on that fateful journey, I'm filled with a sense of pride, gratitude, and hope. I've learned to cherish every moment, to prioritize love and health.

To Ameya, Dr. Jyoti Kumar, Dr. Punit Jain, and the entire medical team, I owe a debt of gratitude. Thank you for being my guardians, my mentors, and my friends. You've given me a second lease on life, and I promise to make it count."

### **Key Milestones:**

- February 16, 2019: Lost vision in left eye
- February 18, 2019: WBC count 3,27,000
- February 19, 2019: Biopsy test, Diagnosed with Acute Undifferentiated Leukemia with 70% blast cells and mutations.
- February to March 27, 2019: Completed induction chemotherapy.
- April 4, 2019: Started Hyper CVAD procedure

- October 30, 2019: completed Hyper CVAD Arm A & Arm B. (chemotherapy- methotrexate and doxorubicin)
- Multiple growth factor injections on the stomach twice daily, multiple blood and platelet transfusions, 17 lumbar punctures along with the treatment for brain clots.
- December 4, 2019: Achieved complete remission
- November 12, 2019: Underwent radiation therapy.
- March 1, 2020: started maintenance chemotherapy medicines.

My journey is a reminder that life is precious, and every moment counts. I'm grateful for a second chance, and I'm determined to make the most of it.

#CancerWarrior #HopeHeals #ResilienceReigns