



Her parents never thought a baby could be born with cancer. Thanks to the groundbreaking neuroblastoma research conducted at SickKids, Lilah's future is as bright as her smile

LILAH'S STORY: A BRIGHT SMILE, A BRIGHT FUTURE

TAMI AND ERIC WERE SHOCKED TO LEARN that soon after their first child, Lilah, was born, she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer.

During Tami's pregnancy, a routine ultrasound revealed that Lilah had only one kidney. Upon her birth, an abdominal scan was done to check the existing kidney, which revealed a golf-ball sized tumour on one of her adrenal glands. Lilah was transferred to SickKids, and was later diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare and as-yet incurable cancer that develops in the adrenal glands, above the kidneys, and can spread to other organs.

Neuroblastoma accounts for nearly 10 per cent of all childhood cancers and is also the most common tumour in babies under one year of age. The prognosis for neuroblastoma patients depends upon the age of the child at diagnosis and the stage of the disease – the younger the child, the better the chance for a positive outcome.

Lilah's tumour and affected adrenal gland was surgically removed when she was only two weeks. But when Lilah was about three months old, a CT scan found cancer on her liver. This time, the treatment was more severe. Lilah had two rounds of chemotherapy, a surgical resection of approximately one third of her liver, followed by two more rounds of chemotherapy.

Lilah finished her treatment in December 2004 and since then has had a clean bill of health. Now three years old, Lilah only comes to SickKids every few months for check-ups. Thanks to her doctors and caregivers at SickKids, Lilah's hopes for a bright future are even brighter than her smile.

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