



Riley

"IT HITS HOME HOW WELL YOUR CHILD IS CARED FOR HERE,"



RILEY'S STORY

Riley is a 12-year-old who's been through a lot in his young life. He's a mature and astute young man who doesn't let anything get him down.

"Riley was 6 years old when he began having headaches," remembers Scott, Riley's dad. "After imaging tests and a biopsy, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor," he says.

Scott recalls how overwhelming it was at first. He quickly appreciated that his Nemours oncology team — which included doctors, nurses, a social worker and a Child Life specialist — was there for his family in different and unexpected ways.

From the start, Riley has actively participated in every visit. "The doctors and nurses always take the time to directly answer his questions about equipment and treatment," Scott says. "Our social worker found programs that helped us quite a bit as well," he adds.

At one point, Riley was suffering a side-effect from treatment. "The oncologist quickly adjusted the regimen to something easier on him. And his nurses called to ask how he was doing," Scott says. Along with being responsive and attentive, the sheer force of Riley's care team isn't lost on Scott. "When you have anywhere from six to eight cancer experts at your disposal, it hits home how well your child is cared for here," he says.

Today, four years after his last treatment, Riley continues to come to Nemours for regular scans and yearly meetings with his oncology care team. Thankfully, Riley's tumor is stable. He has some cognitive differences from the chemotherapy and gets support from school.

For many of us, going through this during the COVID-19 pandemic would be hard — but Riley keeps things in perspective. Scott notes he did well with online learning, and he can't wait for school to reopen to see his friends every day.

Riley tells his dad, "COVID-19 is no different than my cancer treatments. We have a plan in place, and we will do our best to achieve it."

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