

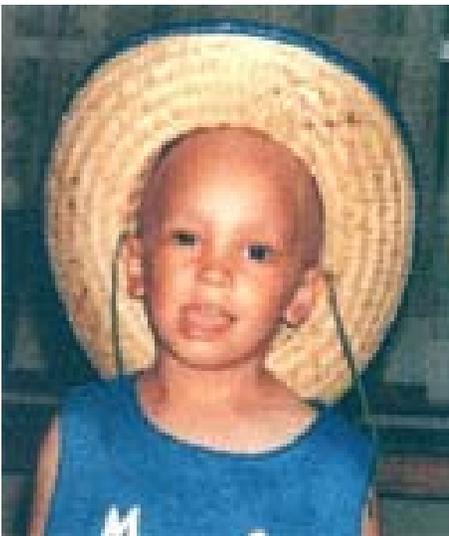
What is Medulloblastoma?

Medulloblastoma is cancer that appears in the brain and spine. Medulloblastoma accounts for about 20 percent of childhood brain tumors. They most often occur in the first decade of life; half occur in children younger than five to six years of age. These tumors are slightly more common in males than in females. When Erik was diagnosed at 17 months old we were told that they had a lot of success with this type of cancer with the older children. With infants the odds were not good.

Erik's Journey

It was November 17, 1992 when we heard the words "Your baby has cancer" This was the beginning of Erik's Journey. Erik had brain surgery to remove most of the tumor in his brain. We were told that this type of cancer was very treatable in older kids but the odds were against an infant surviving!

Erik started chemotherapy in December of 1992 and continued with this until February of 1994. It was then that he finished his treatment with radiation to the brain and spine. It is by the grace of God and many skilled doctors that he is here today.



We were told that radiation is the cure for many. Now Erik is cured of this dreaded disease but has many long term effects from his cure. Erik sees about 12 specialists at CHOP through out the year. His latest problem started about four years ago when he had a mini-stroke. It was discovered that the radiation he received 13 years ago was now showing up with the blood vessels in his brain. The right side was much worse and he needed surgery.

We took Erik to Dr. Scott in Boston who had designed a surgery to bring blood vessels from the face area up in to the brain to create more blood flow threwh the brain. Erik will be gong through more testing in June to decide when he will need surgery on the left side.

We were told by Erik's radiation oncologist back in 1997 that we had received a miracle and that any problems that would arise in Erik future, by then there would be surgery and procedures to correct these problems. So far he has been correct.



We as Erik's parents are extremely proud of our son and his courage. We have vowed to do everything in our power to give him the most successful future possible no matter what the cost.