

Stony Brook Children's Hospital
Video Transcription
COURTNEY H.

Susan H. (mother of patient):

I had dropped her off at an equestrian camp. And there was a message on my machine. And the message came from the nurse at the camp. She said that Courtney had fallen off a horse and that they had dispatched an ambulance. Well when I arrived she just said mommy I don't feel good. It's not good mommy, my stomach really hurts really bad.

They took her via ambulance. They asked me exactly where do you want her to be brought? And I said I would like her to be taken to Stony Brook University. Then she quickly decided that she really had to go to the bathroom. She couldn't hold it. So she proceeded to go into a bedpan. And there was a blood bath and Courtney had bled out 75% of her blood. And within moments she was in shock. There were doctors around her within seconds and that's when I met Dr. Lee for the first time. And as he explained it to me Courtney had a level four laceration on her spleen, her left kidney was completely shattered, and she was bleeding internally and they were immediately going to do a blood transfusion.

She got one blood transfusion and a day later she had to get another blood transfusion because she was still bleeding. After the second blood transfusion, Dr. Lee had told me, OK that was two that I didn't want to give her. If I have to give her a third, that's it, I'm going in and I'm going to open her up. And at the time we knew, that she would lose her left kidney if he had to go in. And he wasn't exactly sure if there was anything else bleeding, what else he would have to take.

Dr. Thomas Lee asked me - at one point, he asked me to trust him. She's my life. She's everything I have and I pretty much put all my trust in him. And he was phenomenal. He would call in the middle of the night. He'd call at three in the morning. Call and ask how Courtney was. How I was. He did not have to give her the third blood transfusion and exactly as he predicted, the body acted like a tourniquet and the bleedign stopped on its own.

She was nine at the time. Courtney is now 17. And so now she has a perfectly good left kidney, perfectly good right kidney. She has her spleen. She just won all county in a very important swim meet that she had. She's healthy and she's driving me crazy.