

SUPERHERO KIDS

MAX

**My name is Bou, I live on Boyne Island and Max is my son.
This is our story.**



“I got home from work on a Wednesday afternoon around 6pm. Max had been for a motorbike ride after school with his stepbrother and had fallen from his bike. I asked why they hadn't rung me, and he said because he only had a little bruise even though the fall had broken the brake lever on his motorbike. I told him there was no way the bruise would have already shown up, so he showed me the bruise. That is when I noticed a lot more bruises on his legs. None of them hurt when touched except the bruise from that afternoon. As soon as I saw the rest of the bruises, I knew but went into

denial. I had seen the same bruises on my schoolmate's legs back in 1990. She was diagnosed with ALL a third of the way through year 10, only a couple of weeks after I saw those bruises. I tried to get an appointment with our local doctor the next morning, but they had none available. Still being in denial, I made the appointment for first thing Friday morning. We had the appointment, Max had blood taken and I dropped him off at school, not planning on seeing him again until the following Monday due to him staying with his father for the weekend.

The local doctor only had my home phone number and had started trying to call me around 12.20am. My husband, stepson and I did not hear the home phone ringing or the ambulance officers knocking on the door. I don't know what it was that woke me, but I got out of bed, turned the front light on and there they were. We ended up getting in touch with Max's dad and the ambulance where he lived brought Max to the Gladstone Hospital to meet me and get admitted until we could get the Flying Doctor's plane to Brisbane to start his treatment.

Max was diagnosed with High Risk ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia) on August 31st 2013 aged 9. After 29 days, he moved up to Very High Risk, reducing his chances. He spent nearly 11 months in Brisbane getting treatment and we stayed

at the Childhood Cancer Support Units during this time. He is currently undergoing maintenance treatment which involves daily chemo tablets as well as a weekly chemo tablet and a trip away monthly for extra chemo and/or as well as a lumbar puncture. (he receives a lumbar puncture once every 3 months now).



It has been a huge battle for Max as his oncologist explained in quite simple terms to me. There is a 20% and an 80% when it comes to kids having side effects from treatment. Max was continually in that 20% that had an allergic reaction, that had to stay in hospital longer, that got sick from different types of chemo drugs, that ended up back in hospital because blood levels were too low or that got some kind of infection. What was supposed to be about 6 months turned into nearly 11 months for him.

Fortunately, since coming home, Max has only been hospitalised once (for 8 days) and that was 6 hours after we got home after leaving Brisbane. Fingers crossed all will go well now. He is back at school, has been cleared and allowed to play rugby league again (his passion) and is loving being able to go fishing every weekend again. “

To see more of Max’s story please visit *Max Hoiberg’s Journey with Leukaemia* Facebook page

at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1448999505334500/?ref=br_tf