

SUPERHERO KIDS - MADDIE

My name is Courtney, I live in Perth and Maddie is my daughter. This is our story.



“Maddie had a continuous cough that lasted a few weeks and was not improving with several doses of antibiotics from the doctor. She was also constipated. She wasn't eating solids as she would gag.

On Tuesday night 28th January 2014, I got home from playing a game of netball and Maddie woke up coughing. She wouldn't resettle like she normally did and I thought she sounded like she was having a little trouble breathing. I went out to my husband Robbie and said I think I need to take Maddie to the hospital. He said if you are thinking like that then best to take her. Robbie stayed home

with our nearly 4 year old daughter Charli as she was in bed and I took Maddie to Joondalup Health Campus. I explained Maddie's symptoms and when the paediatric doctor came I was told she had bronchiolitis. I asked him to do a thorough check as she also wasn't eating solids, was constipated and was quite small.

He said he could feel something in her stomach, but suggested this could just be faeces that needed to come out. That all made sense to me so I thought nothing of it. We got admitted to the ward and was advised the next morning we would need an urgent ultrasound. However they were too busy to fit us in so would have to wait till the following day.

Thursday 30th January, 2014 Maddie and I went down for her ultrasound. Once they completed the ultrasound they left the room and the paediatric



doctor on duty came in. I was standing up with Maddie in my arms at the time. She advised me to sit down, gave me a box of tissues and said “its never going to be good news if I give you a box of tissues”. I was extremely shocked at her words. She then continued by stating Maddie had a tumour and that it appears to be neuroblastoma. I just burst into tears holding Maddie tight and asked to go back to the room. Before we left the ultrasound room the doctor called Robbie to advise him of the outcome. When we got back to the room she also called my mum who had our daughter Charli. On the 7th February 2014 Maddie's official diagnosis came in as Stage 3 neuroblastoma. She had a tumour on her right adrenal gland. A couple of days later her bone marrow results came back which showed disease so she was then classed as Stage 4 intermediate risk neuroblastoma.

From there we had to wait for a bed at PMH to be available. Eight rounds of chemo later and an 8 hour surgery Maddie is doing fantastic. There is still tumour remaining as they could only remove 75% of it due to its location and being so close to major blood vessels, but as long as it doesn't grow or spread Maddie is fine. Maddie will be 2 in May and she is on 3 monthly scans with monthly urine samples.”