

Patient Stories: Stephanie, Oncology

I wasn't feeling well for about a month or so and I was having intermittent abdominal cramps and we kind of joked and thought, oh, I was probably going into menopause and then earlier this year I ended up in urgent care with horrible diarrhea and vomiting. And they eventually sent me to the hospital for some scans and they found an abnormality in my colon.

Once I was diagnosed about a week later I had a laparoscopic sigmoidectomy where they removed about a foot of my bowel. They removed the tumor and they removed 28 lymph nodes.

Within about six to eight weeks after the surgery, I started chemotherapy which was a pill form which I could take at home. My regimen was two weeks on, one week off. I had a number of different side effects.

I didn't lose my hair, but I did have terrible pain in my hands, in my feet, which was the primary reason why I was not able to go back to work while taking the chemotherapy.

Nobody could tell me why I had colon cancer. I certainly did not have any family history. I think throughout this process I've learned that I have to take better care of myself, exercise and eat, have a better nutritional diet.

I am so excited that the surgery is successful. I'm finished with the chemotherapy. I am looking forward to feeling better and being rid of the side effects. I'm excited to go back to work and enjoy my life again.