

ANONYMOUS

Statement of:

GRO-B

(Formerly

GRO-B

Daughter of

GRO-B

My Mother **GRO-B** received blood test results that indicated she had hepatitis C just before my 13th Birthday in **GRO-B** 2001. In early 2002 My mum had to go privately to have a liver biopsy to confirm the hepatitis C diagnosis, if she hadn't she wouldn't have been able to have the treatment as soon as she did, which no doubt saved her life.

The diagnosis of hepatitis C was scary for us all. We all needed to be tested especially as she was pregnant with me in 1988. In 1984 my mum had a ruptured spleen which she needed to have removed in an urgent operation and required a blood transfusion during the process.

So far none of us, my siblings, my dad and I have had a positive Hepatitis C test, but as it doesn't always show symptoms we like to get tested now and again just to be on the safe side. There is always the worry the hepatitis C will come back for my mums or that one of us will be positive which causes us all extreme anxiety.

Being a 13 year old girl who had to help care for her mother was horrendous. My dad had to work to pay the bills, my mum was on sick leave as the medication made her really ill and the house we lived in went with her job which caused a lot of stress for my parents. Emotionally it was a very difficult time for me.

My mother became very thin and withdrawn on the treatment, I had to force her to eat and I mostly made meals for her and myself, as my dad worked away a lot. There were times when it felt like I was the parent and my mum the over emotional teenager. She once told me she hated me because she didn't want to eat and I was trying to reason with her. She was always emotionally all over the place, crying, angry, sad it was hard to watch as we couldn't do anything to help her.

I had to occasionally administer her treatment which was an injection to the stomach because she refused to take it as it made her feel so awful.

My mum suffered depression during the treatment and needed to be prescribed antidepressants and has never not recovered to this day she still takes them. She was definitely suicidal and if she had been on her own or not been given antidepressants when she was I believe she would have tried to take her own life.

My mum use to be an out going, fun and bubbly person. She is now an anxious and depressed. Its sad that the life saving treatment she had has left her feeling so emotionally and physically wrecked. We had no support offered to us as a family, I at 13 didn't know how to navigate the situation I found myself in. It was traumatic for me, I myself am on antidepressants now partly as a result of the trauma of watching my lovely mum go through a horrific treatment. Yes it saved her life, but with it, it took her love of life.

She suffers with chronic fatigue amongst other things. She sleeps most of the day now and always feels physically poorly in some way. I myself was diagnosed with chronic fatigue when I was 16 years old. Hepatitis C nearly destroyed us and changed our lives forever. I did things and saw things that no 13 to 15 year old should encounter. My siblings were older and had their own families, so it was just me and my dad. We tried our very best and I know my parents feel terrible that I had to help but I don't blame them. I blame the blood transfusion my mother was given back in 1984 that we now know could of led me to contract it when I was being born. All of us were at risk for many years before we were aware my mum had hepatitis C.

ANONYMOUS

My details are as follows:

GRO-B

Tel: GRO-B

Yours faithfully,

GRO-B

Daughter of: GRO-B

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