

Chondrosarcoma Awareness Day
February 6, 2024
Show Your Support for More Research and Clinical Trials

Saddiq Akilu, A Young Man from Nigeria Looking for a Hand Up



Saddiq Akilu pictured (1) graduating with a degree in Medical Laboratory Science, (2) working in the laboratory (3) post-surgery from conventional chondrosarcoma, grade 2 in his pelvis.

My name is Sadiq Akilu, I was born in May 1997 and live in Katsina State Nigeria. I grew up playing football (Soccer) and going to school. After finishing high school, I went to the Maryam Abacha American University and studied medical laboratory science. After three years of study, I started my internship and my final exams. During that time, I noticed something growing in my back near my pelvic area. I was young and naïve and did not take it seriously, but it was also painful. I ignored the growth and the pain because all I wanted to do was to pass my exams and graduate from school successfully.

After my final exams, I came back home and started feeling more intense pain in my leg. I went to the hospital where they did a biopsy and we discovered that I have conventional chondrosarcoma. We do not have a sarcoma specialist in Nigeria, so I had to travel to Egypt for surgery. My surgery was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That time was tough for me because I had severe pain, and it was difficult for me to sleep. The pain got so bad; I could not walk. After the pandemic with the help of my family and financial assistance I was able to travel to Egypt for the surgery. The surgery was successful, and they removed the tumor which weighed 10kg. It took a long time to heal and recover and after one year the tumor came back and I had to go for a second surgery. Unfortunately, the tumor was not able to be removed completely. I am now supposed to go for proton radiation treatment in Germany, but I do not have insurance and will have to pay for the treatment and living expenses out of my own pocket. I cannot afford it on my own and am looking for financial help so that I can get proton radiation and enroll in clinical trials. My goal is to get the treatment I need so that I can go back home to Nigeria, resume my career, and help others.

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