

#EYEGETDILATED



BRIANNE, ALBERTA

"Right before the school year started in late August of 2019, I was curled up on my parents couch reading – a luxury, being a mom of four young children. I noticed my sight was mottled and a little blurry in my left eye - as if there were tiny water droplets splattered across my field of vision.

My optometrist, Dr. Kaul, dilated my eye to thoroughly examine it. She also took some pictures and then very calmly told me my retina was detaching and I needed to get downtown. She knew she was seeing more than a detached retina because she'd seen it ONCE before but she was kind enough not to freak me out any more than I already was. It was a whirlwind afternoon where my eye was dilated for the first time EVER. There was more imaging done, an ultrasound & bizarre questions about moles and things that had nothing to do with my vision. A few days later, I met the illustrious Dr. Weis, a highly respected and brilliant Ocular Oncologist (and my personal hero). He was the first one to use the 'C' word with me. He explained everything so beautifully that I told him "Out of all the cancers I could have picked, it seems I chose a good one". There was a flicker in his eye, but he didn't correct me. How wrong I was, though...

In October of that year, I underwent brachytherapy where a gold-plated patch seeded with radioactive grains was sewn onto the back of my eyeball for five days, covering the tumor and frying it. Brachy is very successful at shrinking and killing the tumor while also allowing me to keep my eye and preserve some vision. The biopsy revealed I'm class 2 prame negative which means I have a high rate of metastasis. The mortality rate if this cancer spreads is absolutely horrifying and I live with that fear daily.

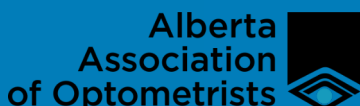
Bob Marley said, "You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only option". Cancer has shown me my strength a million times over. It's helped me be more intentional and appreciate this life that I've had the privilege of living. Three years later, I'm thriving & dancing with NED (No Evidence of Disease) as we say in the OM community. I've got the most incredible team of doctors in the world and a supportive group of OMies that I can lean on when those dark thoughts threaten my sanity. This is not an easy path to walk but there is life after OM and there is so much beauty in that life.

Ocular Melanoma is rare, with only 200 Canadians diagnosed/year, but it can have devastating effects. Shamefully, it had been 10 years since I'd seen an optometrist. Early detection with a comprehensive eye exam is so important and can literally save your life. Please take your eye health seriously and get dilated."

- Doctor
- Dentist
- Dermatologist
- Dilated Eye Exam

Missing a check?

Ask your Optometrist about the importance of early detection of Ocular Melanoma



For more information contact ocumelcanada@saveyourskin.ca | 1-800-460-5832