

Alison tells her story on son Alex

.....We have a resilient, positive, strong willed young man. He may not have hair but he is healthy, wealthy and wise otherwise in his life – That's the greatest gift of all!



I first noticed my Son Alex had a bald patch when he was 4. It was just a small circle on the side of his head. As his daddy has a shaved head I just assumed they had been experimenting with the clippers. A couple of weeks went by and I saw another bald patch but my husband and the clippers had nothing to do with it. Next step was a series of Doctors, blood tests, Paediatrician and then finally the Dermatologist at RCH in Melbourne. By this stage it was out of control and out of our control. Alex's hair was on the bed, pillows and especially in the bath. It was everywhere except on his head. We were totally shocked and confused as Alex seems so happy and healthy. I remember the Dermatologist gently tugged on a chunk of Alex's hair and it just came out in his fingers.

After a course of steroids all the hair grew back and our boy looked 'normal' again as per society's expectations. It wasn't to last! The next course of steroids failed to work and then we started to look at other drastic treatments such as medical Acetone and injections in his scalp to promote hair growth. We joined the AAAF and I began to do more research and ask more questions. The biggest thing that jumped out at me was that suffers of Alopecia were saying certain treatments were terribly traumatic and can cause physiological damage more so then the actual Alopecia itself!

We armed Alex age 6 with all the information good and bad, we felt with our support it was up to him to choose the next course of action. We did not want to keep him in the dark although we did want so much to protect him from the stares, comments and questions. By now the stares were part of everyday life for him. Alex seemed rather oblivious to it but I, his mother would just cringe inside. Then there were the never ending questions: - "Are you dying"? "Do you have cancer"? "Why don't you have any hair"?. We would have paid thousands of dollars to purchase Alex a wig but he chooses not to wear a wig. He chooses not to wear a hat and he chooses not to have any further treatment!

We have had some counselling sessions but this year something changed. Alex has Alopecia and has accepted it. Now his attitude and outlook have changed. Through acceptance the comments and questions have declined or maybe they just don't bother him as much. Alex doesn't want to hide and why should he? Embracing Alopecia rather than fighting it has been the best outcome for Alex and our family. Through the AAAF we have met some truly wonderful, encouraging and supportive people. We attend social activities as a family and as a couple. It has opened the door to us and more recently Alex appeared in a Uni Project - TV commercial based on Alopecia and he thoroughly enjoyed being the star of the show! Alex chooses to make the most out of Alopecia and doesn't hold back on anything in fact quite the opposite. It doesn't have to be a battle! We have a resilient, positive, strong willed young man. He may not have hair but he is healthy, wealthy and wise otherwise in his life – That's the greatest gift of all!

My lasting comment, I asked Alex "What he thinks about Alopecia".
His response..."I love it"! I get to go ice skating, go on You Tube and TV. :-) Alex

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