

Laura 22, engaged and loving life.

I was 14 when first diagnosed with alopecia areata. Since then it has progressed to alopecia totalis.

Being a 14 year old girl in year 8 at high school is hard enough let alone with alopecia. I was a normal, happy and healthy girl before losing my hair.

After I found my first bald patch behind my left ear in April 2008 it only took 4 months till I was completely covered in patches and decided to shave the rest off.

My poor mum and the hairdresser we went to were crying as she shaved my head because the more that came off the more I looked like a leopard.

I became really withdrawn and depressed. I hated myself, my appearance, everything. I would scratch at my head just hoping to make hair come through. I was miserable.

Through the misery though I worked and went to school even though I could feel everyone staring at me.

I even got asked what type of cancer I had once.

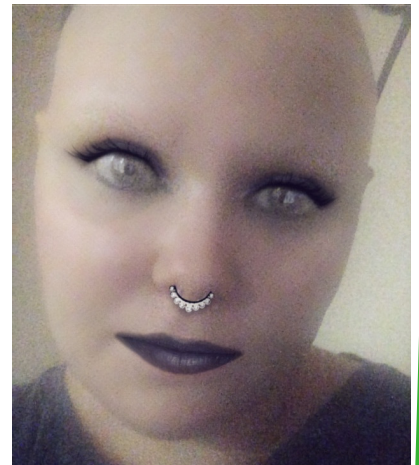
After this I wore synthetic wigs for nearly 3 years. I was stared at a lot in high school because I had no eyebrows or lashes and was wearing (what was completely obvious) a wig.

I was lucky to have a strong and big group of friends who helped me with the looks and taunts.

In Late 2010, early 2011 I got my first freedom wig! I was so beyond excited! I unfortunately was too late getting it to wear it to my year 10 formal but was lucky enough to be able to start year 11 feeling confident again. My mum had found (what was) "look good, feel good" and got me some fake eyebrows. I had perfected the art of fake lashes and now had a BEAUTIFUL!!! Human hair wig to boot!

Since then I have been back to my confident self.

Having alopecia from such a young and vulnerable age taught me how to look past the present and focus on the future, to not let other people's insecurities become mine and to love myself ALWAYS! because I am beautiful and worth it.



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