



Georgina's Story

GEORGINA WOODCOCK

GEORGINA WAS TOLD SHE HAD A BRAIN TUMOUR AT JUST 12 YEARS OLD, during busy preparations for her mum's wedding. Georgina's mum, Shirley took her to the opticians after she had complained of headaches and dizziness and it was during this appointment, when Georgina's left eye was covered for a test, that she realised she couldn't see anything out of her right eye. She and her mum were told that because sight in her right eye had disappeared gradually, she wouldn't have noticed. The optician advised that Georgina's mum take her to hospital.

At the hospital a number of tests were carried out, resulting in a brain scan three weeks later. When Georgina and her mum were called back for the results, they were informed that Georgina had a tumour on her optic nerve and that she needed an operation.

The operation was risky and there were no guarantees that Georgina's sight would be saved. After eight hours of surgery, Georgina's sight had been temporarily saved but her pituitary gland had to be removed. This meant that she inherited a form of diabetes that means she won't be able to regulate how much she wants to eat or drink and will constantly be hungry and on medication for the rest of her life.

Following the operation, Georgina spent two days in Intensive Care to ensure she didn't develop a life-threatening blood clot in her head. She spent a further two weeks in hospital, during which time her mum's wedding was inching closer. Georgina tired easily following her treatment and it was uncertain whether or not she would be well enough for the wedding. But she wasn't going to miss her mum's big day for anything and made it down the aisle as her mum's bridesmaid just as planned and as she'd been looking forward to for months.

Her mum talks of the great pride she felt on that day for her daughter's tremendous courage. "Even when she was in intensive care she never lost her sense of humour. She has dealt with her situation very well. Whatever has been thrown at her she has just got on with it." There is still a chance that the tumour could return, but Georgina and her mum remain positive. "Things could have been worse and we have to be thankful for that" says Shirley.