



Eda's Story

I was 21 when I was told that my liver disease, primary sclerosing cholangitis, was untreatable and I needed a liver transplant.

My fiancé and I were planning our wedding for that December. My specialist told me it wouldn't be a good idea to be on the transplant list and plan the wedding. But I didn't know how long I was going to live, and, without a specific time for a transplant, I decided to go ahead and have my dream wedding in only 2 months. The day after my wedding, I was in hospital signing forms to go on the liver transplant waiting list. I couldn't go on a honeymoon.

Fourteen long hard months I waited for my organ. I was very sick. For eight months straight I was a hospital inpatient, losing strength every passing minute. Fluid built around my liver and lungs, needing a "tap" daily to drain the fluid away through my spine.

Early one morning I woke in my bed with my husband beside me, doctors in the corridor, nurses taking blood. They had a donor liver for me! The only thing I remember is kissing my family and hearing best wishes. From within my close Turkish family and community, every person understood and supported the need for organ donation for my transplant to proceed.

Yet there were complications and that transplant didn't proceed. By now I was in a very critical condition, given 3 days to live. Luckily I had angels looking over me

and another matching liver became available. I had a new healthy liver – and a second chance at life!

I woke up feeling alive, like a newborn. The changes I felt were unbelievable. After an 11 hour operation I was walking with the help of ICU nurses in a few hours. I was out of ICU and in the liver transplant ward the next day, and home in 2 weeks. I had a quick recovery with much rest at home to make the most of feeling 'normal' again.

Now this gift of life has paid it forward - I'm happily a mum to a gorgeous baby girl, Elizan! Sadly, this chance of life only happened because of a loss of a family's loved one. I can't thank the organ donor and their family enough for their decision. Not only did they save my life, but also another life was born.

-Eda



Eda with her gorgeous baby girl Elizan.



Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority

donate life

For more information about organ and tissue donation please visit
www.donatelife.gov.au