

Name: Emma

Age: 17

I was diagnosed when I was 15 with Graves' Disease on January 30th, 2014. My first signs of Graves hit in 2012/2013. I was already misdiagnosed with ADHD at this point. My symptoms before diagnosis were poor grades, lack of concentration, fast heart rate, fatigue, insomnia, tremors, diarrhea, nausea, irregular periods, dehydrated, couldn't stand for long periods of time, goiter, bulging eyes, chest pains, short of breath, very weak, weight loss, big appetite, mini seizures and was really unbalanced.

On February 3rd, 2014, I was in a 'Thyroid Storm'. I was a sophomore in high school and it sucked and was in denial the whole entire time. Everything was a blur for me that day that everything went 'in one ear and out the other' since everything went so quickly after what they did know what was wrong with me. I was immediately admitted and put on methimazole, beta blockers and iodine. After I was out of a 5 night stay in the hospital, including a night in an ICU setting, and once I was on my feet again, I was told that I could have died, if I didn't get any treatment when I did. I would either have a stroke or a heart attack from my heart going so fast.

Fast forward to the present day, I'm really thankful that I'm alive today. I am currently on 5 mg of methimazole a day. Now looking back at my journey, I have lead a completely different life now that I'm way better than before diagnosed. I have changed my outlook on life to be a positive one and that has lead me to volunteer at the same hospital where I stayed at. I'm hoping to pursue a career in the medical field in the near future.

The reason why I'm sharing my diagnosis story is because Graves Disease, especially in kids and adolescents, is so unknown, so I want to put myself out to spread the world about this disease and hoping to have it better known in the future.