

In 2018, an estimated 1,735,350 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 629,540 people will die from the disease.

Approximately 38.4% of men and women will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during their lifetimes.

In 2017, an estimated 15,270 children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 were diagnosed with cancer and 1,790 died of the disease.

Goodnight our hero, our son, our Dan.
You are just a child
But you have died a man.

cancer.

cousin.

grandpa.

mom.

"Don't worry."

cancer noun
1. a disease
2. a person's natural condition between death and life
3. the fear of death or the death itself
4. the fear of death or the death itself
5. the fear of death or the death itself
6. the fear of death or the death itself
7. the fear of death or the death itself
8. the fear of death or the death itself
9. the fear of death or the death itself
10. the fear of death or the death itself

"I know how you feel."

"It's just hair."

Life doesn't discriminate
Between the sinners and the saints
It takes and it takes and it takes.
And we keep living anyway

"I'm sure you'll be fine."

"I know someone who had the exact same diagnosis."

"I know just what you should do."

It's just hair, and eyelashes.

another appointment

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows.

another appointment
another appointment

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows, and fingernails.

another appointment
another appointment
another appointment

"The most difficult part of my illness wasn't losing my hair, or being erroneously called 'sir' by Starbucks baristas, or skinless from chemo. It was the loneliness and isolation I felt when many of my close friends and family members disappeared because they didn't know what to say or said the absolute wrong thing without realizing it."

I wish I could take away your pain. Or at least take away the people who compare it to the time their hamster died.

To be brave is to cry
But still to fight on.

"It will grow back."

another appointment
another appointment
another appointment

Cancer is so limited...
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.

I am the one thing in life I can control
I am inimitable I am an original

another appointment
another appointment
another appointment
another appointment

another appointment
another appointment
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another appointment

another appointment
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"We are fine."

Estimated national expenditures for cancer care in the United States in 2017 were \$147.3 billion. In future years, costs are likely to increase as the population ages and cancer prevalence increases. Costs are also likely to increase as new, and often more expensive, treatments are adopted as standards of care.

"How are you holding up?"

This uncompensated care involves significant time and energy as well as requires performing tasks that are physically, emotionally, socially, and existentially demanding. Indeed, caregivers are at risk for psychological (eg, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness) and physical (eg, increased mortality, cardiovascular disease, poor immune functioning, and sleep difficulties) complications. Although some studies of caregivers reported comparable rates of depression and anxiety to those of patients for whom they provide care, others have shown rates that surpass those of patients.

"I'm fine."

For example, rates of depression between 12% and 59% and anxiety between 30% and 50% have been reported in samples of caregivers, in comparison to those of depression between 10% and 25% and between 19% and 34% in the patient population. Additionally, between 40% and 70% of cancer caregivers reported clinically significant symptoms of insomnia, which negatively affect their mental and physical health, are frequently chronic, and may impair the normal grieving process among bereaved caregivers. These symptoms can increase the risk for chronic illness in caregivers, including cardiovascular disease and cancer.

"I'm fine."

Cancer is so limited...
It cannot cripple love.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot conquer the spirit.

"We're doing great!"

"We're doing great!"

Last Christmas Eve.

That was months ago.

To be fighting alone.

Mum...

I wanted to be sure...before I told anyone...

I didn't want this to be a false positive and worry anyone...

She could have told someone earlier...

She could have told dad.

She could have told Grandma.

She could have told you.

Does any know?

She never wants to trouble anyone.

No.

She fights her own battles...

...with a smile on her face...

...she is amazing.

Is it rumble?

...armed with courage and optimism.

...she is so brave.

No. Not yet.

In 2018, an estimated 1,753,350 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 629,640 people will die from the disease.

...and I could be the next one...

What's the next step?

"It's just hair."

It's just hair, and eyelashes.

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows.

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows, and fingernails.

"It will grow back."

Chemotherapy and eventually a Stem Cell Transplant.

Despite advances in the treatment of many side effects associated with chemotherapy, doctors remain on a quest that is difficult to resist. Chemotherapy-induced alopecia (CIA) is a condition that can have profound psychological and quality-of-life consequences, resulting in anxiety, depression, a negative body image, lowered self-esteem, and a reduced sense of well-being. Patients who hear CIA may sometimes select regimens with less favorable outcomes or may refuse treatment.

That will buy me several years.

They say: "Everything happens for a reason."

Please let me be the first person to punch the next everything happens for a reason. I'm sorry you're going through this.

I wish I could take away your pain. Or at least take away the people who compare it to the time their hamster died.

How can I help?

This uncompensated care involves significant time and energy as well as requires performing tasks that are physically, emotionally, socially, and occasionally demanding. Indeed, caregivers are at risk for psychological lag, anxiety, depression, and hypochondria and physical lag, increased mortality, cardiovascular disease, poor immune functioning, and sleep difficulties complications. Although some studies of caregivers reported comparable rates of depression and anxiety to those of patients for whom they provide care, others have shown rates that surpass those of patients.

For example, rates of depression between 12% and 59% and anxiety between 50% and 59% have been reported in samples of caregivers, in comparison to those of depression between 10% and 23% and between 19% and 34% in the patient population. Additionally, between 40% and 70% of cancer caregivers reported clinically significant symptoms of insomnia, which negatively affect their mental and physical health, are frequently chronic, and may impair the normal grieving process among bereaved caregivers. These symptoms can increase the risk for chronic illness in caregivers, including cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Just keep smiling until 45... be happy?

...

...

That sounds so cheerful...

Kinda like mozzarella...perhaps cheddar...?

"None of us are getting out of here alive."

She always told me that...

...

I'm sorry.

Don't be...

...

Whatever you need...I'm here for you.

Always...

You're 19 years old, you don't need that.

My age doesn't matter.

She's my mom.

I would do anything for my mom.

Who wouldn't?

Life has a funny way of screwing up your best plans.

...

I'm going to fight.

I know.

...

I love you.

I love you too, mom.

Please...

...give me more time.