

# Kats Cure

Kat lives in Milton Keynes in the UK

Here is her journey from finding out years ago she had GBM Brain Cancer.

Several years ago she suffered a seizure, triggered by a brain tumour. This was graded as a low grade and for a number of years remained inactive.

“Three months after the birth of her son, she was told that her brain tumour had progressed to the most aggressive stage of Glioblastoma.”

Glioblastoma Multiforme is the most aggressive form of brain cancer with many sufferers living only 12-15 months. .

The following months brought chemotherapy and radiotherapy and in December 2013 it looked like good news! There was a significant reduction.

However a few months later Kat suffered further seizures and was taken to hospital.

For her son's first birthday she was undertaking major brain surgery to have as much of the tumour removed as possible.

Several months of chemotherapy followed **until she was told it wasn't working and there was no more that could be done and she had only a matter of months to live.**

This brings us close to where she is today and exploring the incredible advances in science.

Kat signed up to a medical trial that uses an immunotherapy vaccine called DCVax-L

Below is Kats journey, as seen on her own pages, to the present day where she is free from it - **CURED**

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**October 18, 2015**

Kat has her operation booked for the 29th October. The procedure will take several hours and will remove an

estimated 80% of brain tumour tissue.

In this pioneering surgery Kat will remain awake and conscious, allowing them to test and check her speech and motor responses, helping them remove more and minimise risk of damage. The removed tumour will then be cryogenically frozen.

### **October 29, 2015**

Kat has just gone in to surgery. She will be awake for five of the eight hours it will take.

Please pray for gifted hands.

This surgery will not remove all of Kats tumour. What's left will grow back. DCVAX is our hope for a final cure

### **October 31 2015**

On Thursday 29th October, Kat went in for her surgery.

### **November 14, 2015**

Update from Kat:

"I'm feeling a lot better, and we have been to visit the Christmas display. It was probably a bit too much but pleased to of gone. I've been overwhelmed with what you have been doing for me. Thank you all for helping me fundraise. I'm very happy to be so close to getting my treatment!"

### **November 25, 2015**

Update: It's been a slow but steady recovery from surgery so far. But Kats energy is returning and feeling better each day. It's also gotten a bit mad with appointments with all sorts of doctors...

Countless

calls and paperwork!

Next week Kat will start having her chemotherapy until she can start with DCVAX.

We are also making arrangements for the removed section of brain tumour to be flown to America.

Treatment plans have been very complex and so many factors involved butwe are confident we can be on our way to reaching #KatsCure soon.

We hope to be able to fly over ourselves soon but no dates are close to being agreed.

## **November 30, 2015**

This week is a busy week with doctors and consultants almost every day.

Kat starts chemotherapy on Friday until she can start DCVAX. Please wish her luck.

While this coming week is going to be hard, there is great news!

We have officially broken the £100,000 mile stone.

Thank you to all those that have, are and will be fundraising to help us be one step closer to getting #KatsCure, it's is ALL THANKS TO YOU GUYS!!

## **December 11, 2015**

We are truly amazed by the love and support that you continue to show.

At present our team page is sitting on over £117,000 with 25 fundraisers.

This level of funding felt like a million miles away when we started this journey in October.

This is mind blowing for us but we are in a complex situation of moving goal posts with regards to the amount we need for #KatsCure

While we wait for the revolutionary DCVAX treatment we hope that chemotherapy will keep kats tumour at bay. However if her current chemotherapy fails we will need to buy in the next treatment.

Avastin is a drug which is widely known to disrupt the growth of cancer cells.

It's not available on the NHS in the uk because it has a significant cost associated. In the event that the tumour starts to show signs of growth before the DCVAX vaccine is ready we would like to use this drug alongside a checkpoint inhibitor.

Cancer cells produce a chemical that makes them almost invisible to immune cells, a check point inhibitor prevents that from happening! Amazing stuff, but yes, extremely expensive (more so than Avastin).

But in amongst this uncertainty we have some fantastic news.

There has been two large donations from corporate organisations that wish to remain anonymous.

This means that we are in a position to have all 11 vaccines of DCVAX which is outstanding.

Arrangement are being made for the tissue removed during surgery to be flown to America and we hope it will be there next week.

While production of DCVAX will not start immediately, this represents a giant step towards our goal. We can't thank you all enough!

I'm sure while you will agree that this is great news, the path ahead is uncertain and we don't know how long production will take.

We need to keep going with the fundraising for now to make sure that if Kat needs Avastin we can also afford this and the amazing Check Point inhibitor.

If in the event that part of the money we all raise is not needed to fund KatsCure, this money will be used to support others who have been diagnosed with Brain Tumours.

### **December 15, 2015**

A message from Kat, very proud of how amazing she is: "Hi, I did my first day at work today. It's been six weeks since my surgery, so going back was was hard but good to get back to normal"

### **December 22, 2015**

Everyday brings us closer to #Katscure and we can't thank all of you enough for all your support. Christmas is just around the corner and we all hope you have a brilliant one. We know the new year will bring more wonderful steps to our end goal!

### **January 13, 2016**

Update:

Kat is now back at work and enjoying being back. (sometimes a little more relaxing than having our 2 year old!) chemo is going well with no real side affects and due our next scan soon.

We are hoping to hear that the regulators in America release the next stage of DCVAX trials soon so we can look to move forward with getting Kat this revolutionary treatment.

Thank you again for all your loving support, fundraising and donations. We are further with fundraising than we ever could of thought.

Thank you!

## **January 21, 2016**

It's an incredibly busy two weeks with doctor appointments three days this week and round three of chemo next week.

(on top of work and a two year old!!) We are still waiting for things to move forward in America but hopeful for this to happen soon!

## **February 18, 2016**

Huge mile stone reached today!

We have hit the starting target of £90,000 on the main #KatsCure page.

Our collective team pages are on £137,000! This is a massive achievement when we look back to October, starting with £0.

Kat and all of us are blown away by your support and messages. The wait for DCVAX is starting to get a bit stressful if honest.

But everything sounds like it could move forward soon. Fundraising wise we still need to keep going as we don't know what is round the corner with a need to swap chemo treatments to Avastin and Check point inhibitors. But reaching this first massive milestone is an amazing achievement by all of you! Thank you!

## **March 17, 2016**

Update:

Kat is doing really well on her current chemo, feeling good but a little tired (probably from having a crazy 3 year old) the chemo is hitting harder each month though which is tough.

We are still waiting for the FDA to sign off their mid trial review of DCVAX, the wait is getting a bit agonising and we are looking at what we can do.

One option is to start the Check point inhibitor treatment which is expensive, potentially, we would need over £100,000 for this.

(on top of saving money for DCVAX and Avastin)

While we wait on news from America and on our options, we thank you for your continued support and donations.

## **April 29, 2016**

We have some wonderful news. Kat recently had an MRI to make a comparable to the Post surgery MRI scan from October.

THERE HAS BEEN "A HUGE REDUCTION" in the tumour.

This was, if honest a huge surprise for many reasons, but obviously we are all over the moon!

Current chemotherapy was only expected to slow progression or hold things at bay, the news of such a important reduction is very significant.

We can't wait to see DCVAX, Kat's very own bespoke vaccine, take the final blow to destroy the remaining tumour cells once and for all. Not only destroying them, but upgrading her immune system to attack them at every stage.

### **July 24, 2016**

We got away for our first holiday this year at Wells Next to sea.

Was a nice little break. Kat is going really well,

So much so they are looking to reduce some of the other medications!

### **September 10, 2016**

Milton Keynes, United Kingdom ·

After the craziness of how this year started it's been amazing to have a summer of music and relaxing. Kats last scan showed a huge reduction and a second scan is booked in for next month. I'm sure you will join us in crossing everying possible!!!

### **December 7, 2016**

Our Christmas Miracle!

We have been quiet over the last few months going through our journey with some highs and some lows.

Earlier this year we flew to Memphis in America for Kat to have Stem Cells removed for DCVAX. (Also managed to Pop to Sun Records!)

The parts of Kat's tumour which had been surgically removed in November 2015 had already been flown over and the team there managed

to create all 11 treatments (3 years' worth) of DCVAX.

For the last two months there has been a small flare in Kat's scans, however they suspect this could actually be a reaction to the immunotherapy (DCVAX) which is apparently common.

This "Mystery" flare is the only visible enhancement, meaning that there is no visible remains of Kat's tumour! All the old tumour is gone. Which is an amazing Christmas gift!

The DCVAX journey has been a crazy one, from your fund raising efforts and support, the team at DCVAX and here in the UK including

the Brains Trust.

Now, one year in to this chapter we can finally announce its all been worth it!

There is always hope, faith and there is always opportunity for miracles.

Have an amazing Christmas!

### **January 10, 2017**

**WE DID IT! KATS CURED!**

On Monday we met with the doctors in London for the latest MRI review and there is no more tumour!

They are very sure that the mystery flare is a reaction to treatment and the scan shows no signs of tumour.

After fighting and praying for six incredibly long years its finally happened and it's all gone. It's not really sunk in for us yet if we are honest.

One thing we do want to say is, You all helped make this happen, THANK YOU!

Let this be the start to one of the most incredible years for us all!

### **July 12, 2017**

Just had another round of DCVAX, still feels so Sci-fi.

Looking forward to another summer of festivals and fun.

### **Sept 13, 2017**

A few months back they thought a new site of tumour had grown.

We left it a few months to scan and this week we went in for the results.

Again, this was a reaction to DCVAX doing it's work and have been told there is still no tumour and we getting close to 12 months clear!

This is obviously an amazing news and for us and will be celebrating! DCVAX is working and we are getting our lives back!

We hope this brings as much of a smile To You as it does us. Xxx

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We do wish Kat all the best and really hope the vaccine keeps on working.

The company that produces DCVax-L is called Northwest Biotherapeutics and they are

soon to release their Phase III trial results and if Kats story is anything to go by the FDA should

hopefully be approving it for general use (even Standard Of Care)

Visit Kats facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/katscure/>

Also Kats fundraising page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katscure>

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