
Father of Three Diagnosed with Rare Breast Cancer at 53

Description

In 2013, Jacob Johnson from Fort Collins, Colorado, found out he was a BRCA2 gene carrier, linked to a high risk of cancer. Ten years later, at 53, he was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive type of breast cancer in his right breast.

Despite undergoing regular mammograms for over a decade, Johnson was shocked by the diagnosis. He initially thought the mass would be benign, but tests confirmed invasive micropapillary carcinoma (IMPC), a serious cancer subtype.

The National Cancer Institute explains that BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes help repair damaged DNA. However, mutations can increase cancer risks as the body struggles to fix DNA damage. After his diagnosis, Johnson had a double mastectomy in January 2026 and began chemotherapy, experiencing side effects from drugs like Cytosan and doxorubicin, known as the "red devil."

Johnson's wife, Kimberly, notes the challenge has been his physical changes and reduced energy, impacting his ability to engage with their children. Male breast cancer is rare, making up less than 1% of cases in the US. Johnson encourages men to monitor health changes and prioritise screenings, especially with a family history of cancer.

Kimberly shares his story on TikTok to raise awareness. This experience has made her more vigilant about her own health, prompting regular check-ups. Their children will undergo testing when of age, though their eldest daughter has tested negative.

Johnson stresses the value of genetic testing and early detection, crediting his mother's research into family history for his early diagnosis, which he believes saved his life.

Vocabulary List:

1. **carrier** //ˈkæriər// (noun): someone who has a gene that may cause disease
2. **mutations** //mjuːˈteɪʃənz// (noun): changes in DNA that can cause problems
3. **invasive** //ɪnˈveɪsɪv// (adjective): spreading into nearby body organs or tissues
4. **mastectomy** //mæsˈtektəmi// (noun): surgery to remove one or both breasts
5. **chemotherapy** //ˌkiːmoʊˈθerəpi// (noun): treatment using strong drugs to kill cancer
6. **benign** //bɪˈnaɪn// (adjective): not harmful and not a cancer growth

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What year was Jacob Johnson diagnosed with breast cancer?
Option: 2010
Option: 2013
Option: 2023
Option: 2026
2. What type of cancer was Jacob Johnson diagnosed with?
Option: Invasive micropapillary carcinoma
Option: Lung cancer
Option: Prostate cancer
Option: Melanoma
3. Which genes are associated with repairing damaged DNA?
Option: BRCA1 and BRCA2
Option: TP53 and KRAS
Option: HER2 and EGFR
Option: MTOR and PIK3CA
4. What treatment did Johnson undergo first after his diagnosis?
Option: Radiation therapy
Option: Chemotherapy
Option: Double mastectomy
Option: Immunotherapy
5. What is the nickname of the drug doxorubicin used in Johnson's treatment?
Option: The Red Devil
Option: The Blue Monster
Option: The Black Widow
Option: The Green Giant
6. How does male breast cancer prevalence compare to female breast cancer in the US?
Option: Less than 1%
Option: About 5%
Option: About 10%
Option: Equal



True-False

7. Jacob Johnson initially thought the mass found in his breast was benign.
8. Jacob Johnson and his wife do not use social media to share their story.
9. Johnson had a single mastectomy after his diagnosis.
10. His eldest daughter has tested positive for the BRCA2 gene.
11. The National Cancer Institute states that BRCA2 mutations can decrease cancer risks.
12. Male breast cancer accounts for approximately 10% of breast cancer cases in the US.

Gap-Fill

13. Jacob Johnson was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of _____ years.
14. The aggressive breast cancer type Johnson was diagnosed with is known as _____ carcinoma.
15. Johnson underwent a double _____ in January 2026.
16. After his diagnosis, Johnson received _____ therapy as part of his treatment.
17. Jacob Johnson found out he was a BRCA2 gene _____ in 2013.
18. Kimberly Johnson shares their story on _____ to raise awareness.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 2023 2. Invasive micropapillary carcinoma 3. BRCA1 and BRCA2 4. Double mastectomy 5. The Red Devil 6. Less than 1%

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 53 14. micropapillary 15. mastectomy 16. chemotherapy 17. carrier 18. TikTok

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4



POST TAG

1. B2
2. breast cancer
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. father of 3
6. Level 4
7. regular testing

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