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New Year's Baby Diagnosed With Cancer



Reporter: Brent Frazier

Last January first, a Williamson County couple gave birth to a healthy baby boy. A week ago, however, doctors discovered a form of cancer in little Gabe Sipos. News 2's Brent Frazier tells us the child's prognosis and why the next year will be tough on the whole family.



A year ago, Rob and Lou Sipos couldn't have been happier with their new bundle of joy. Today, Gabriel Sipos is back in the hospital with an illness even dad has trouble pronouncing.

"Rhabdomyosarcoma."

Rhabdomyosarcoma is a rare muscle cancer found mostly in children. Doctors discovered a rapidly growing, walnut-sized tumor on Gabe's right jaw Christmas day.



"A portion of the tumor is pushing on his brain, which is causing his eye to wander slightly," said father Rob Sipos.

Gabe and his parents have been at Vanderbilt since Christmas with family and friends stopping by the toddler's room. It's been trying, to say the least, on these first time parents.

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"Probably when it's all over and I know he's safe, and you know, and well, then, I'll be able to fall apart. But not right now," said mother Louise "Lou" Sipos.

But not right now, because the roughest part is yet to come. Gabe must endure a lifetime of treatment, Lou's been forced to quit her job, and Rob hasn't worked since Christmas.

Ironically, Rob's job is at Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital working in construction management. He's helping build the hospital that would eventually help heal his son.

Gabriel is looking at five-and-a-half weeks of radiation and 12 months of chemotherapy - costly treatment that could leave the child permanently disfigured.

"We're talking about bone reconstruction later on and dental work, not to mention medication and home care visits."

Doctors said the next 12 months are crucial for Gabriel. They'll have a better grasp on his prognosis a year from now when the new year's baby turns two.

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The treatment will be harder on Gabriel than the disease itself. His parents said the radiation will decay his incoming teeth and will likely stunt the growth of his jaw line - hence the need for reconstructive surgery. The Siposes have created a website where you can see Gabe, monitor his progress, and even make monetary donations. Just click the link below. You can also make donations at any Bank of America branch.

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