



Medtronic

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Patient Profile - Randi

Randi Groboske

Scoliosis surgery patient

Elk Grove, Calif.

It was standard practice for student athletes. Before she could start cheering with the seventh-grade squad, Randi had to get medical clearance, just like all her teammates. What started out as a routine visit to the pediatrician's office, however, turned out to be the starting point of a trying journey for Randi and her entire family.

Her doctor noticed the curve of Randi's spine immediately. X-rays confirmed the diagnosis: scoliosis severe enough to require a brace. On her 13th birthday, Randi received the back brace that would restrict her spine and her life 23 hours of every day for the next three years.

Even as she adapted to wearing the brace over time, Randi was constantly reminded that she was different from the other kids-d eformed. But, she also carried hope with her-hope that the brace would correct the scoliosis; hope that she would not have to have surgery. During her sophomore year in high school, Randi's treatment required that she gradually wear the brace less and less. But the news at the end of that treatment phase wasn't good: Randi would need surgery to correct her scoliosis.

Although the concept of spinal surgery was scary, Randi had been in a great deal of pain for longer than she cared to admit. She knew surgery was her only hope for returning to a "normal" life. Randi's parents knew it, too. Together, they sought a treatment that delivered reliable results and minimized the physical and emotional traumas associated with traditional scoliosis surgery. Their search led them to Dr. George Picetti, an orthopedic surgeon at Kaiser Sacramento.

The summer before Randi's senior year, Dr. Picetti, performed a procedure to correct her scoliosis, using minimally invasive technology called the CD HORIZON® ECLIPSE™ Spinal System. The surgery successfully corrected Randi's scoliosis and she was able to walk two days after surgery, compared to seven to 21 days of bed rest typically required after other scoliosis surgeries. She now has four one-inch scars underneath one arm, compared to one 12- to 24-inch scar down the middle of the back.

Randi is now living brace-free, pain-free and stigma-free for the first time in more than

five years. She just completed her first year as a student at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

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