LIFE SOUNDS GOOD

JESS TOEWS
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WHO AM I?

- Jess Toews
- 37 years old
- Married to Tim for 14 years
- Foster/Adoptive Mom
- Live in Winchester, Ky
OCTOBER 2009 MRI

- Tumor
- Bertha
NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE 2 (NF2)

- Genetic disorder effecting 1 in 33,000 people
- Characterized by Bilateral acoustic neuromas
- Tumors can grow throughout the brain, spine, and on any nerves
- Causes hearing loss, tinnitus, balance dysfunction, cataracts
- Size and number of tumors varies in each person
- Treatments are focused on symptoms
- No cure and treatment options are limited
GOODBYE BERTHA
DRUG TRIALS, AVASTIN, & RADIATION
COCHLEAR IMPLANT

The end of a matter is better than its beginning; Ecclesiastes 7:8
WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

COCHLEAR IMPLANT

- Stimulates auditory nerve
- Invented in 1972
- Approved by 3 companies in USA- (Med-El, Advanced Bionics, and Cochlear)
- Over 342,000 cochlear implant patients worldwide
- Usually an outpatient surgery

AUDITORY BRAINSTEM IMPLANT

- Stimulates brainstem
- Only 12 hospitals in the USA perform the ABI surgery
- Approved only by Cochlear company in the USA
- Used mostly for environmental sounds
- About 2,000 ABI patients since 1979

*https://www.audiology.org
QUESTIONS?

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