



Kristin Magyari

College Student
Orthopaedic Patient

I'm a junior at Miami University and I have a lot of different hobbies. One of them is baton twirling. I started when I was six years old and I'm still doing it in college.

Twirling has been one of my passions since I was six. I started when I was a little girl. I traveled throughout the country, competing in different states and doing a lot of different types of competitions. I would always be right up there, either placing first or second. When you get second, it just makes you want to work harder. That's where I learned I can never give up with anything that I do.

I wanted to twirl in college - that was one of my big goals - so I ended up trying out for the University's feature twirler spot when I was a senior in high school. I made it as a freshman and I've been doing that ever since. I've loved the different experiences I've had. My freshman year, I traveled to New York City and I twirled in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Last year I was in the inaugural parade in Washington DC. I've had the experiences of a lifetime and I absolutely love it.



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Kristin's care team included an orthopaedic oncologist, specialists and therapists – all of whom were determined to see her return to her active life as a college student and athlete. For Kristin, her story is just beginning.

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It's taken a lot of hard work, discipline and athleticism to make me a good baton twirler. I know some people wouldn't think that baton is a sport, but for me, it is.

Even though I'm getting to the point where I'm doing it more for fun, I still have to practice a lot.

It really is pretty physically demanding on my body. It almost reminds me of being a gymnast or an ice skater or a dancer, because you have to do different tosses with bodywork underneath them. I do a move called an illusion, where basically, I'm upside down on my right leg the whole time...just the different kinds of skills you have to have underneath those tosses...they have to be exact in order to catch the baton. It takes a lot of hard work and training.

My freshman year - during the first weeks of school - I started band camp and I noticed this shooting pain down my right leg. It was mostly in my right hip, and it was just not normal. I had no idea what was going on. I could barely walk, but I just kept twirling.

Eventually, I started going to physical therapy. They thought it was just some sort of muscle problem, and they were trying to work it out, so that I could keep twirling. I kept twirling throughout the pain. I would go to practices every day, then try to ice it and do anything to make it feel better, because it just did not feel right.

Physical therapy didn't help, and I was directed to a doctor in town who took an x-ray. They found a cyst.

They told me, "Oh, it's not hot, not red, not inflamed. It's probably fine." So, I went to the Macy's Day

Parade the next week and twirled down the streets of New York City in absolute pain. I didn't drop my baton. I smiled through it. I did a fantastic job and had the experience of a lifetime but still, the pain was just horrible. I couldn't begin to describe it.

When I went back to school I got a voicemail from the doctor saying they looked at my x-ray again and thought it needed to be checked out because they noticed the severity of the spot that it was in. I didn't want to deal with it. I was trying to get through my classes. I was having a great semester. I was getting fantastic grades and I just wanted to finish out the semester.

I was never the type of person who thought I would have to have surgery for something. I never thought I would be "that girl on crutches", but I saw a few doctors and I ended up choosing Summa because they wanted to get me back to full athletic activity so I could twirl again.

When I found out that I had to have surgery, I couldn't believe it because I didn't think it was possible for me to have a tumor. My doctor told me it (the tumor) had to be removed and they would have to insert a metal rod and screw and some cadaver bone in my leg so my right hip would be strong enough to be athletic again.

I was really confident in Summa because I knew the surgery was something that I had to have. I had to put my trust into them, and two years later, I am so glad I did because if I hadn't had this done, I may not be walking today.

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My doctor said after about six weeks I would be able to start learning how to walk again. I ended up at week five so it was a little bit ahead of schedule. He said I would be able to return to full athletic activity and start getting back to all my twirling moves again in 3 to 4 months, and it would take about a good year to feel completely normal again. I have pretty much gained all the flexibility that I used to have. For a while, I didn't feel like I could do anything. And now, I feel like I can do anything.

I remember after about five weeks I had to start learning how to go to one crutch and then no crutches at all. At week five, I started going to physical therapy and I learned how to take my first steps again. It was crazy because I literally never thought that I would have to learn how to walk again. But I took those steps, and I really, I really had to work at it. I couldn't believe how hard it was to take steps. I had a major wobble for a while, so I had to learn how to even out my steps and walk like I used to. Eventually, I did.

One day, I went to my studio, and I was watching my sister practice. I was actually still on one crutch, and I was just goofing around doing a one-spin, which is a really easy little trick, but I was able to do it, like it was no big deal. A few weeks later I went back to the studio, and I was able to pick up my baton and do a trick that I hadn't done for a year. So, it was really cool to see that slowly, I was able to start doing stuff again.

It was the worst thing I've ever been through, but eventually after the weeks went on, I started becoming so thankful for Summa and the doctors that gave me

so much care, because without them I wouldn't have been able to recover. I wouldn't have been able to start walking and I wouldn't have been able to start twirling again. I never would have been able to do it without them. It really was the hardest experience I've ever been through, and I was not myself for quite a long time, but eventually, my body – and my leg - was normal again.

This experience has affected my life in so many ways. I'm definitely more grateful for the little things in life. I know Summa helped me, and I don't know what I would've done without them, because I definitely have a different perspective on a lot of things. When people complain about little things, I just don't tolerate it anymore. I see things in life so differently and I'm grateful for even just being able to walk down the street.

I'll be a senior next year, and it'll be my last year of twirling at school. I'm so thankful that I'm able to do all the simple daily tasks. If I couldn't twirl today, I would not be the same person. I couldn't even imagine having to give up something that means so much to me. The fact that I'm able to twirl again today makes me so thankful. It really makes me appreciate everything.

