

# Survival and Hope *Life After Cancer*



**STEVEN HUBBARD, 23**  
**DIAGNOSIS: TESTICULAR**  
**CANCER**

## The Basics:

- **RESIDENCE:** Victorville
- **OCCUPATION:** Medical supplies delivery
- **FAMILY:** Brent, 49, father; Gena Hubbard, step-mother; Lola Saiz, 23, best friend
- **HOBBIES:** Keeping my car clean

By Alberta Hale Crigler

Steven Hubbard has been a survivor since the day he was born. Hubbard was a twin and weighed one pound, 15 ounces at birth. His twin brother died at 30 days old.

At just 20 years old, Hubbard was diagnosed with testicular cancer. "It was a big shock," he said. "It's news nobody should get – that they have cancer. Even at such a young age. I hadn't had my first beer yet. It was a hard road to walk.

"I was diagnosed in September of 2015. I knew there was a bump on my testicle, but for me it was more like, how do I tell somebody – it's my area. So, I had to step up and tell my dad.

"We got all the testing and scans done, and I remember I was nervous and I didn't know what to expect.

Steven had surgery to remove the testicle later that month.



"I just remember I woke up after the surgery. I was crying. I was looking for my dad because he has always been there my whole life. He walked in, and I was still crying but happy to see him.

"He said, 'I know things are going to get hard, but you have to have a positive outlook.'

Doctors told Hubbard the cancer had been discovered early. "I had some in my lymph nodes," he said, "so they wanted to do a robotic surgery to remove the lymph nodes, but that didn't go through because the oncologist said chemo would be easier than surgery.

"Chemo started in the beginning of December and lasted until January. I was always tired after a chemo session. I didn't want to do anything. I would get nauseous, but that was about it.

"I still remember the day I lost my hair. It is one of those things you never forget. The chemo they were giving me was real strong.

"I was in the shower washing my hair, and I remember looking at my hands and my whole hand was a hairball. I called my dad upstairs and said, 'I think my hair is falling out.'

My dad is a nurse, and he was there with me when I went through my diagnosis. He was on the internet looking up everything on testicular cancer. He wanted to know what questions to ask.

"Everyone was supportive. They were as shocked as I was. I was just 20, still like a teenager, pretty much. I was fighting this battle no one should fight."

During his illness, Hubbard said he was aware of "people staring at you. I wore beanies, but you could still tell I was sick.

"I would get more flushed in my skin. I wasn't the same color I usually am. I would always wear my face mask because I didn't want to get sick.



*"It's news nobody should get – that they have cancer."*

Now, Hubbard says: "Life is too short to think about the past. Every day I wake up knowing that I went through what I went through, and I just try to be a better person."

Hubbard is diligent about monitoring his health. "I do my CAT scan about every three months. I go in every three months to see the doctor.

"I also do my own examinations in the shower. I make sure the other one is still healthy.

"Basically, my support group was my dad and my friends. They were all there for me."

Hubbard said his "best friend," Lola Saiz, would stop by the hospital after classes at Victor Valley College and was there with him during his chemotherapy treatments.

"I didn't want to think about it much at the time. It sucks. I didn't want to be a downer,

I just wanted to keep my mind off it, and she would help me. We would make jokes and have a good time," he said.

Hubbard's advice to anyone facing cancer: "Check yourself. If you feel anything that doesn't feel like it should be there, go see the doctor. Even though it may be uncomfortable, especially for any man, don't be scared."

## Caregiver Perspective



I have been a nurse for 21 years," said Brent Hubbard, Steven's father.

Most people don't know how to talk to their kids, and most kids don't know how to talk with their parent about something so private.

"I asked him, 'Is it the twig or the berry? That way I would know more or less where it probably was.

"The past two years, my wife and I were on the Event Leadership Team for Relay for Life.

"Testicular cancer is the most common cancer in males 18 to 33. Parents need to have an open, unobstructed conversation with their kids so they can catch it early.



The American Cancer Society provides a 24 hour service to answer questions about diagnosis, insurance, local support and resources

**www.cancer.org or**  
**call 800-227-2345**

*These stories of survival, hope and prosperity brought to you by:*

★ 2018 ★  
BEST OF THE  
desert  
High Desert's Official People's Choice Awards  
DAILY PRESS  
vvdailypress.com  
• FIRST PLACE •

## Apple Valley Golf Course

15200 Rancherías Rd  
Apple Valley

**(760) 242-3125**  
[www.applevalleygolfclub.com](http://www.applevalleygolfclub.com)

AVGC

**NOT YOUR PARENTS' COUNTRY CLUB.**  
Come golf on the best greens in the High Desert

VVC003746