

I became a type 1 diabetic when I was 5 years old. Growing up as a child I played all kinds of sports (like football, hockey and baseball) just like all my friends but due to my diabetes I was limited to the amount of time I could last before I had to take a break due to my sugar levels being low. I would have really bad mood swings in school and with friends, when my levels were off. I have blacked out and did not know what I did or said. I used to vomit when my levels were too high, which made me feel uncomfortable to be around friends. At the start of my diabetes I would take one long lasting insulin shot once a day and as I got older I needed to regulate my diabetes better so I went on an insulin pump. Diabetes started to affect other aspects on my body, like my eye sight which was getting worse and I had to get laser surgeries. It also, affected my job because if my levels got to low I could black out and not remember things.

The pump helped out but I still had the highs and lows. I still had to adjust the amount of insulin I received and I had to change my sites every 3 days (I felt trapped by the tubes). My body started to shut down. My kidneys started to fail and I ended up on dialysis 3 days a week. I had problems regulating my levels when on dialysis. I would get sick and even a few times I had to go to the ER. I was on dialysis for about 5 years. I also, was on a kidney and pancreas waiting list. My health was going downhill fast. Finally, the day had come; I received the call about a match. I went in and received a kidney and pancreas transplant. The kidney took but the pancreas did not work. I was approached by Dr. Witkowski and his team about the Islet cell transplant study. I went in and received my first dosage of cells.

I started to notice a difference in how I felt. Since receiving the Islet cells I have not been on any insulin, no lows or highs, I am not as tired as I used to be and my mood swings have gotten better. My family and friends have noticed how alive I have become and I enjoy being around others. My eye sight has improved. I have more energy and I don't feel as depressed as I once did. My A1C went from 12 to 6.2, wow. The Islet cell transplant has given me a whole new life. I want to thank Dr. Witkowski and his team for all they have done for me, they have no idea how much they have changed my life.