

## Kyle Craner's Brain Tumour Story

My brain tumour story begins when I was 15 years old. I was doing some schoolwork on the computer when I suddenly fell off the chair to my left side. My mom found me a few minutes later on the floor. I had no idea where I was or what had happened between the time I fell and when she came into the room. I was sent to Walkerton for an MRI, but the test results came back negative. We now believe this was the beginning of my tumour's growth.

Fast forward to 2012 I was in my second year of the Sports Management program at Durham College. I started experiencing what I call "space-outs." I struggled to form sentences and often blanked out, staring past people and not hearing what they were saying. This continued through the summer of 2012 and into 2013. Unfortunately, I couldn't convince anyone to send me for an MRI. Many doctors believed it was stress from school or a lingering concussion from my background in hockey and rugby.

That changed when I met Dr. Gabremichael at the North Oshawa Medical Clinic in July 2013. He scheduled me for both an MRI and an EEG scan of the brain. A few weeks after the MRI, I received a call from Dr. John Paul's office in Oshawa. He was a local neurologist, and he confirmed that I did in fact have a brain tumour in the frontal lobe.

Things moved quickly from there. Two weeks later, I met with Dr. Das, a neurosurgeon at St. Michael's Hospital, to go over a surgery plan. He confirmed I had a Grade 2 astrocytoma a cancerous but slow-growing tumour that would likely return later in life. By August 2013, I underwent surgery, which was successful, and I was discharged from the hospital a few days later.

That summer, I began searching for something to fill the hockey void in my life. I was no longer playing and didn't have an interest in coaching, so scouting made the most sense. I emailed every team in the Ontario Junior Hockey League and received responses from three. Oakville stood out, so I drove down from my hometown of Zurich to meet Mike Daley, the team's general manager. I had just come out of surgery and was unsure whether I'd be able to scout in person, but with a good recovery, I was able to get to games. That was the start of my scouting career.

After two years with Oakville, I felt ready to take the next step into the Ontario Hockey League. I reached out to a few teams over the summer, and after meeting with Dylan Seca Sarnia's Head Scout at the time, I joined the Sarnia Sting organization for the 2015–16 season.

In June 2016, I had another surgery. It was again a Grade 2 astrocytoma, and the operation went smoothly with no complications. Around the same time, I wanted to further my education, so I



enrolled at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) through a bridge program with Durham College to pursue a bachelor's degree in business commerce.

By June 2019, after two years at UOIT, I was ready to enter the business world while continuing my work as a Sting scout at night and on weekends. However, another mass showed up on an MRI, and I needed a third surgery, again with Dr. Das at St. Michael's. The surgery was successful, and I was discharged a few days later.

I decided to move back home to Zurich for some rest and recovery. I stayed there for nearly a year before taking a sales job in Barrie and moving into an apartment in Richmond Hill. But I quickly realized sales wasn't for me. I took a job at a small hockey school, where I taught shooting and stickhandling to mostly younger players in the region.

I worked at the school from August 2017 until January 2019, when I suffered a severe seizure. That incident forced me to quit my job and move back home once again, where I've been ever since.

Despite all this, I continued working for the Sting in any scouting capacity I could getting rides to rinks, watching game video, tracking player stats, and doing background work. I was doing well, still scouting nights and weekends, and looking for a full-time job when I received the news in July 2021 that my tumour had returned this time as a Grade 4 glioblastoma. Surgery was no longer an option. I would need further treatment, including chemotherapy and radiation, from that point forward.

Because I was living closer to London than Toronto, my file was transferred to London Health Sciences Centre at Victoria Hospital. I began radiation treatment in September 2021, going in every day for a week while taking chemotherapy pills each night for six weeks.

Since then, I've remained at home, continuing my work with the Sting while undergoing a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. Currently, I go in for immunotherapy every two weeks and take my chemotherapy pills every six weeks.



Every day, 27 Canadians are diagnosed with a brain tumour, and nine of those are brain cancer. I'm proud to team up with the Sarnia Sting to share my story and present Craner's Cause, with all proceeds going toward the redevelopment of Bluewater Health's Cancer Clinic a place that will help others like me receive the care they need.