

**Mayo Clinic News Network**

**O34: Shanna’s Rotationplasty**

Intro: Sixteen years ago, at [Mayo Clinic](#), a little girl had groundbreaking surgery for [osteosarcoma](#). This rare cancer involved her knee and a rare procedure called rotationplasty. She was one of the first children in North America to have this unique surgery which enabled her to walk, ride a bike, roller blade and even run short distances. Now, at 24, she's creating 'Brighter Tomorrows' for children living with cancer.

**Video**

**Audio**

<b>TRT 3:00</b> <b>Shanna Decker</b> <b>Cancer survivor</b>	“My knee really just started to hurt a lot. It went from no pain to debilitating pain within three weeks. So much so that at seven years old, I asked my mom to take me to the doctor.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Experts at Mayo Clinic diagnosed a rare bone cancer called osteosarcoma.
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	“All I knew about cancer was that people died of cancer, basically. So when they said, “cancer,” even though I was seven, I knew this is a bad deal. Will I survive?”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	That is a question no seven-year-old should have to ponder.
<b>Carola Arndt, M.D.</b> <b>Mayo Clinic pediatric oncologist</b>	“Treatment for osteosarcoma involves surgery and chemotherapy.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Pediatric oncologist Dr. Carola Arndt, and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Franklin Sim led the multidisciplinary team that cared for Shanna.
<b>Franklin Sim, M.D.</b> <b>Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon</b>	“The tumor was in the lower end of the thighbone.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Shanna started chemotherapy, and then had surgery, which, in the past would have meant amputating her left leg above the knee. Instead, she had what was then a new and groundbreaking procedure called rotationplasty. During the operation Dr. Sim removes the section of the thigh, or femur bone, that involves the tumor, as well as the knee and part of the shinbone or tibia. Then he

	rotates the lower leg, and fuses it to the femur. The ankle now becomes the knee.
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	"See. I'll take off my prosthetic."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	It may look a bit strange, but the procedure and prosthesis have allowed Shanna to do just about anything. She says it was surprisingly easy to adjust to her new normal.
<b>Shanna Decker (35:51)</b>	"As soon as my leg healed, I was walking with a prosthetic and it took me about three seconds to learn how to rewalk."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Shanna, who is now 24, has accomplished a lot in the years since her diagnosis and surgery.
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	"I'm sixteen years out of cancer now, which seems crazy, 16 years."
<b>Franklin Sim, M.D.</b>	"She's an amazing girl because she went through all this when she was seven, and we've seen her grow through her childhood and -- and the function that she's been able to do to remain active. And now at this stage, she's finished college and she's passing it on. She's giving back "
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	"Right after my treatment when I was 8 years old in 1999, my family started mentoring kids with cancer."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Then in 2007, with three other families, they started an organization called Brighter Tomorrows.
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	"It supports families emotionally, spiritually, educationally and a little bit financially when they're diagnosed with cancer. And we have hundreds of people in our database now."
<b>Carola Arndt, M.D.</b>	"It makes my day. But then if at the end of the day or during the course of the day I see a long-term survivor like Shanna, it puts things in perspective and it reminds me this is why we do what we do."
<b>Shanna Decker</b>	"Helping families with cancer. Being an advocate for childhood cancer. Helping every single family that walks through the journey so they're not by themselves."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Giving back hope, love and healing.

Anchor tag:

Treatment for many childhood cancers keeps getting better. Dr. Arndt says up to 75 to 80-percent of all kids with cancer survive long term.

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