

College athlete overcomes COVID-19 with liver transplant

Video	Audio
Jaleezia Gibson Patient	"My body would just feel like it was just like shutting down. So, I called 9-1-1. And then they came, took me to the ambulance, and then the helicopter. And then all that happened."
Shanna Britt & Jaleezia Gibson	"Do you have to go pack up your dorm ['yeah'] when you leave here?"
Shanna Britt	"Oh, no."
Jaleezia Gibson	"Yeah."
Julie Heimbach, M.D. Transplantation Surgery Mayo Clinic	"Miss Gibson came to us with severe liver failure and her diagnosis also, unfortunately, included that of COVID-19."
Jaleezia Gibson"	"And here's the parallel bars, my first time."
Shanna Britt	"Yep."
Shanna Britt	"We had a little bit of an audience."
Shanna Britt & Jaleezia Gibson	"We did a lot, especially because for a while there, too, you were so weak ['yeah'] that we couldn't do ca whole lot. And then, all of a sudden, you just ['yeah'] took off."
Jaleezia Gibson	"I've been doing boxing ...
Physical Therapist	"Nice."
Jaleezia Gibson	... stairs, the bike, squats, balancing, strengthening, all strengthening stuff to make my legs stronger and arms."
Shanna Britt	"Good job."
Jaleezia Gibson	"Thanks."
Dr. Julie Heimbach	"Having to recover from a transplant, essentially, you know, just with your family, I

	<p>know by your side on the phone, but not able to be with you, you know, taking the steps with you down the hall, that all has to be with physical therapy. They have been remarkably supportive for her, and really, the whole team that has helped her to recover. It's been fantastic."</p>
Shanna Britt	<p>"You just did stairs without a handrail. And we're over here like on the verge of tears because we're just so happy and excited for you."</p>
Jaleezia Gibson	<p>"Oh, thanks."</p>
Dr. Julie Heimbach	<p>"And, really, the personal fortitude that it takes and the attitude that it takes is remarkable and inspiring. And Miss Gibson is very remarkable. And her attitude is so, so impressive. And it really speaks to the fact that she has been able to recover so quickly and, you know, is pushing herself to be where she is today. And to be honest, she actually had liver disease, and she was functioning at a very high level without even knowing it. So, I have an expectation that she has got unlimited potential in the future."</p>
Shanna Britt	<p>"So, right here, she's walking for the first time without a walker or anything around the nursing unit."</p>
<b>Shanna Britt</b> <b>Physical Therapist</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	<p>"I think I could speak for all the therapists in our office that worked with Jaleezia. Like, she was honestly the shining light in a lot of our lives during this time because she was just so positive."</p>
Shanna Britt	<p>"All of us are really hoping that you can get back to that high-level sprinting, and considering in the last month, the amount of progress that you made, I really do think that it's possible. It's going to take a while for you to get that endurance back. But otherwise, I think the hope is just that she's happy and healthy and lives an awesome life and hopefully you will call us in a few years and let us know how she's doing."</p>
Jaleezia Gibson	<p>"I will."</p>

Shanna Britt	"And probably a few years after that."
Jaleezia Gibson	"I will. I'm looking forward to gaining my strength back to be able to run again and eventually make the Olympics or something."