



TITLE

Video	Audio
Brescia Dover Patient	Brescia Dover loves photography. "Being creative has always been at the core of what I do."
	Brescia's passion even led her to Italy to study media and film. She was living her dream when suddenly her life became less than picture-perfect.
	"Being diagnosed with cancer at 20 years old was so scary, and it was a time that I wouldn't wish for any 20-year-old."
	During a routine annual checkup, doctors noticed swelling in Braescia's neck. The diagnosis? Hodgkin lymphoma, a rare type of blood cancer.
	"I think about the young version of me who just found out she had cancer, and I just wish I could give her a hug because it was such a scary, hard time."
	Brescia is not alone. According to the American Cancer Society, cancer is on the rise in young adults. Patients between the ages of 15 and 39 fall into a group referred to as adolescents and young adults with cancer, or AYA. Experts say AYAs face a distinct set of challenges.
Allison Rosenthal, D.O. Hematology/Oncology	"So one of the reasons that this age group is so important is based on their life stage. And so the things they uniquely face are things like body image, disruption in school and work, financial challenges, feeling isolation."
	Dr. Allison Rosenthal is medical director of Mayo Clinic's AYA cancer program. She knows firsthand what AYA patients face.
	"I had the experience of being an AYA cancer patient myself. I had leukemia in

	<p>medical school. And that really turned my career path. Obviously, I was already planning to be a doctor but I found that there were a lot of missed opportunities in my care to recognize the issues that I might face as a 24-year-old woman. I want the patients I care for to be able to feel like they are comprehensively cared for and that somebody understands that this is different."</p>
	<p>Brescia is now five years cancer-free, back to enjoying her love of photography and sending a message of hope to others.</p>
	<p>"There are so many resources and support communities and groups that help you understand that you're not alone in your journey with cancer."</p>
	<p>For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Marty Velasco Hames.</p>