



A rare cancer. A rare weapon.

Curtis Jackson's inspiring story of survival

Video	Audio
	(Nat sound of family playing cards)
	Welcome to the home of the Jackson family. Their home is filled with love, laughter and big smiles. But one afternoon last year, the smiles turned to tears when Curtis got some unexpected tests results from his doctor.
Curtis Jackson, patient	"In that test, we found, we found the cells, that are cancerous."
Courtesy: Jackson family	This was not Curtis' first battle with health issues. In his early 20s, he was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, a chronic disease that causes inflammation in the digestive tract. Then in 2021, Curtis was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a relentless disease that causes damage to the bile ducts. Eventually that led to cholangiocarcinoma, a rare, aggressive and deadly liver cancer.
Tanios Bekaii-Saab, M.D. Hematology/Oncology Mayo Clinic	"Universally this is a noncurative or noncurable cancer."
	Doctors at Mayo Clinic told Curtis he needed a liver transplant and fast.
	"The things Mayo has done to make these transplants happen is just nothing but a miracle, and it's just, it's just great."
Phoenix, Arizona	Curtis got his liver transplant at Mayo Clinic, one of the few medical centers that perform liver transplants for patients with cholangiocarcinoma.

Courtesy: Jackson family	"Hey, guess what? Woo! We're coming home! Yes!"
	"We're not just here treating the cancer, we're also treating the disease that led to the cancer. We're giving him a fresh liver, and we're getting rid of the cancer. A new life? A new life."
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant/Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"We already show signs that the new liver is functioning extremely well, and most of his liver tests are back to normal. It is an impressive recovery within a very short period of time."
	"I now get to see my daughters get married, go to college, get to see my son live his dreams, live old with my wife. I just can't say enough other than 'thank you.'"
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Marty Velasco Hames