

Mayo Clinic restores hoop dreams for teen athlete

Over two years ago, a devastating hip condition and a misdiagnosis threatened to sideline a North Carolina high school basketball player for good. But thanks to advanced medical expertise and innovation at Mayo Clinic, the 16-year-old prep star is back in the game — stronger, more determined and inspiring others with his comeback story.

Jason Howland has more.

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Watch him on the court, and it's clear that 16-year-old Roman Solheim (SOLE-hyme) loves playing basketball.
Roman Solheim H.S. Basketball Player Greensboro, NC	"I love the competitive nature, just competing and having fun with my guys."
	A 6-6 high school sophomore in Greensboro, North Carolina, Roman has high hopes for the future.
Roman	"I want to go to a D1 school, preferably a high major, and become an engineer."
	But three years ago, those hoop dreams were nearly deflated by a subtle hitch in his step.
Kristie Solheim Roman's Mother	"We couldn't figure out anything because he, being Roman, didn't say too much. He didn't really complain about it."
Roman	"I was just limping, not moving the same way that I usually do."
Brent Solheim Roman's Father	"He went through some therapy, and he started playing again, but his limping was more pronounced at that point. And then it started to be painful."
	Roman's doctors diagnosed him with avascular necrosis, a lack of blood supply to the bone.

Brent	"There's not a good treatment for it. He has to stop playing all sports to preserve his hip as long as possible, and he's looking at a hip replacement in 10 years."
Roman	"It's crazy. It just wrecked my world, basically."
Brent	"We said, 'We're going to get a second opinion at Mayo.' And that's what we did."
	A multidisciplinary team of experts at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, quickly determined the true cause of Roman's limp and hip pain.
Roman	"They said I had chondroblastoma, which is a benign bone tumor on my femoral head."
Emmanouil Grigoriou, M.D. Orthopedic Surgery Mayo Clinic	"The tumor was inside his femoral head, the ball in the socket joint."
Dr. Grigoriou	"It is a rare tumor, but especially for younger patients with open growth plates, it's something that we see commonly here."
	Dr. Emmanouil (ee-MAN-you-hill) Grigoriou (grih-GORE-ee-oh) is a hip preservation surgeon at Mayo Clinic. He performed the surgery to remove the tumor.
Dr. Grigoriou	"We were able to surgically and safely dislocate the hip so we can actually take the ball out of the socket, so we can see exactly the tumor, remove it in its entirety, and then put in extra bone — just to let it and help it heal — and then put everything back in place."
	A key component of surgical planning and the procedure itself was a 3D-printed replica of Roman's ball-and-socket joint created by the Anatomic Modeling Unit at Mayo Clinic.
Dr. Grigoriou	"The green is Roman's tumor, and this is a model of his very specific hip with his very specific tumor."
	Two years after the tumor was removed, Roman is back on the court and better than ever.
Roman	"I can jump a lot higher now."

Brent	"It was amazing to see him back on the court after, you know, being told he couldn't play again."
Kristie Solheim	"We're very proud. He's been through a lot. He's very brave."
Roman	"Anything is possible. I came from being told I would never play again to playing at a very high level. You can do way more than what you think."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.