

A rare diagnosis fuels one man's cycling mission to complete pre-Tour de France event

VIDEO

AUDIO

<i>Anchor intro</i>	What started as a way to stay active and take his mind off a rare diagnosis became a mission for Christopher Edgerton. For three weeks this summer, he'll be cycling all 21 stages of the Tour de France in an event to raise awareness for blood cancers.
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"I think when you're on a bike, you have to live in the moment. You've got to keep your eye on the road. It's like driving a car, you've got to be conscious of your surroundings, but at the same time, you've got a lot of time in your own head."
	For Christopher Edgerton, cycling became more than an escape. It gave him space to process and heal.
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"I had my annual visit to the doctors, and at the end, she said, like they always do, 'Is there anything else?' And normally, being a nurse, an ex-nurse, and a guy, I would have said, 'No, no, I'm fine,' you know, unless I'm in the ER, I'm okay. But I told her I just felt a little bit tired, so she sent me for some bloods. When I saw the results, they were all red all the way down. I sort of knew enough to be dangerous. I knew it wasn't good."
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"Chris has a very rare diagnosis called Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia. It could range from numbness or tingling in hands or feet to the point of large lymphoma-type or cancer-type tumors in the body or, sometimes, the blood would become so thick or viscous that it can lead to strokes, heart attack, etc."
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"It's not curable, but it's treatable. I think I sort of came to terms with the idea of, you've got an incurable cancer, but it, you know, 'You've got a second chance at life.'"
	Christopher found Mayo Clinic. His care team built a plan around what mattered most to him.
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"He wanted limited-duration treatment, something that gave him his quality of life, his independence."
	Christopher turned to cycling, pushing himself physically and mentally.

	A year after his diagnosis and buying a bike, he rode from Los Angeles to Boston and raised more than \$50,000 for research.
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"I felt like I needed to do something to prove I wasn't done."
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"He has his disease under very good control. He's not requiring active treatment right now. Both he and I understand that in the future, that could change. He can travel, he can do what he wants to do, and he's been able to obviously demonstrate that by excelling in what is his passion."
	Now, he's taking that passion even further, riding the full route of the 2026 Tour de France one week ahead of the professional race in an event that raises awareness for blood cancers.
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"Each day I'm going to ride for somebody, because it helps me, you know. If you think you're riding for someone, it pushes you, but also each day I can tell somebody's story."
	And for Christopher, every mile comes with a reminder of what matters most.
CHRISTOPHER EDGERTON PATIENT Hobe Sound, Florida	"I'm just very conscious about time. Everybody's limited on time, and I want to feel like I can get as much out of the time I've got."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Alex Osiadacz.