

HEALING OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

In February 2024, our youngest daughter started to complain that her hands were swollen, and she couldn't wear her jewelry. Over the next several weeks she was complaining more and more that her joints were swollen and painful, and her hands are starting to hurt as well.

We took her to her pediatrician, but she wasn't getting better. She had gotten to the point where she was having difficulty walking up and down the steps. Many Friday and Saturday nights, instead of going out with her friends, she would stay home and go to sleep early. She would come home from school during the week and take naps, which she never ever did before. She was complaining more and more about her pain, and at this point, she barely could grip a pencil or fork. Her joints were all super swollen.

We went back to the pediatrician, and they suggested a pediatric rheumatologist. We went to the recommended doctor, and did a series of medical tests including blood exams and MRI's. On the follow-up visit with the pediatric rheumatologist, she told us that our daughter has rheumatoid arthritis, and she'll be living with it for the rest of her life and will have learn to deal with the pain. She said she will have to start taking some heavy-duty medication which could cause cancer. We left that day, and my daughter was in tears.

At the suggestion of this doctor, my daughter started physical therapy twice a week, but she did not take the recommended medicine. We again called her original pediatrician who we have known for 25 years for another recommendation. The pediatrician suggested an adult Rheumatologist, who also happened to be his childhood friend. Since our daughter was turning 18 soon, we

thought it would be best for her to see this Rheumatologist for a second opinion, since she was still in tremendous pain and was getting progressively worse.

When we went to see the adult Rheumatologist for the second opinion, he told us and that this was a textbook case of Rheumatoid Arthritis and there's not much they could do except putting her on medication to help the pain and swelling. He told us that she would be prescribed Methotrexate (which is also used in Cancer patients) and Folic acid (due to absorption from Methotrexate), and eventually she would have to do infusions. The Methotrexate takes two to three months to start taking effect and to notice a change.

Our daughter was nearing the end of her school year, and now the pain was worse. She was in so much pain, that one day when we were with my in-laws, she was trying to cut her food, and she couldn't, and they started crying because they were so upset.

My wife called Saint Nektarios Monastery, which we try to frequent every couple of months. We were able to coordinate with our daughter and our oldest daughter as well, so we made an appointment for a Thursday in June. Our daughter took her first dose of Methotrexate on the Sunday before visiting the Monastery.

That Thursday morning, we went Saint Nektarios Monastery. When it was time, we went to the Church where she was blessed with holy oil on her joints, on her forehead, on her hands and with the relics of Saint Nektarios as well. She was given some holy oil to take home which she uses to anoint herself. We left the Monastery with love and full of hope that our Lord will continue to guide us.

The next day, Friday, my daughter had a follow up blood exam. That weekend, two days after leaving Saint Nektarios, my daughter was feeling better, she even hopped down the stairs, which she hadn't done in months!

When we went to doctors' office the following Wednesday, he told us that he was perplexed. There were no signs of rheumatoid arthritis in the blood work and her swelling was going down and she wasn't in as much pain! Our daughter was feeling much better! She was just feeling much much much better. It was a miracle. The doctor couldn't believe it. He was beside himself. He kept saying, "I'm Harvard trained. She was a textbook case of rheumatoid arthritis". If he had a medical school class, she would be the case study. He doesn't know what happened, he had no idea what to say. He wants her to continue to go for a checkup every couple of months to make sure that it's still gone, but he has no idea what happened, he can't explain it. He's never seen anything like it. He said there was no way it was from the medicine as it takes months to work, and she only had taken 1 dose! He said the Rheumatoid Arthritis just disappeared. But we know it was Saint Nektarios and the miracle that he performed for our daughter.

Glory be to God and all his Saints!

Peter from New Jersey