

Jose, age 21

Hi my name is Jose, and I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease when I was 18 years old during my first semester of college. Unhappy with the treatment I was receiving and with my medical condition worsening, my mother and I found another doctor who properly treated me and diagnosed me with Ulcerative Colitis. Using a combination of medications including Pentasa and Prednisone, I went into remission for one year. However the UC flared again and no medication, not even the Prednisone, was able to put me into a remission. My condition rapidly worsened to where I needed a feeding tube to replenish the nutrition I was losing. I was left with two options at that point, try a Remicaid treatment and hope that works, or surgery. Doctors told me the Remicaid may not work because it is usually used for Crohn's patients and was only sometimes found to be effective for UC patients. Not wanting to rush into surgery I decided to try the Remicaid treatment. Unfortunately it didn't help much and surgery was needed. I went through with the J-Pouch surgery, which was done in a series of 3 surgeries, and am now in good health. I feel great and I am now living a fairly normal life, pursuing my college degree and working, and I am honored to be an honoree for Team Challenge.