

survivor

Amy Rodriguez



Amy and Tony Rodriguez had their wedding date set for September 2, 2017. Tony had recently moved back to South Carolina from Michigan to begin their lives together.

In April 2017, Amy noticed what looked like a stretch mark on her right breast. She didn't think much of it until she saw a social media article called, "The One Sign You May Be Overlooking." She normally didn't read articles like this, but she decided to read this one. The article discussed dimpling and breast cancer. It was this passage that brought Amy to ask her sister, a pediatrician, to feel around the mark. She immediately felt the lump.

Amy was referred to Prisma Health Breast Center where she had a 3D mammogram and biopsy that diagnosed her with breast cancer. Doctors originally thought the lump was small, but it turned out to be four centimeters of stranding carcinoma. The couple was shocked.

"The first month is the hardest, until you decide on a treatment plan," Tony said.

Tiffany Winslow, Amy's nurse navigator at the Breast Center, provided the couple with a road map of treatment options and helped Amy and Tony figure out how to maintain normalcy throughout Amy's treatment.

"Cancer is awful," Amy said. "It is. But even though that was one of the hardest years of my life, it was also one of the most beautiful. It really restored my faith in humanity."

Amy and her doctors agreed to begin chemotherapy, to reduce the size of the lump, as soon as possible.

"I wanted to get married while I still had hair," Amy explained. "So Tony pulled our wedding together in nine days, and it was beautiful."

Amy and Tony got married on May 27, 2017. She began treatment four days later.

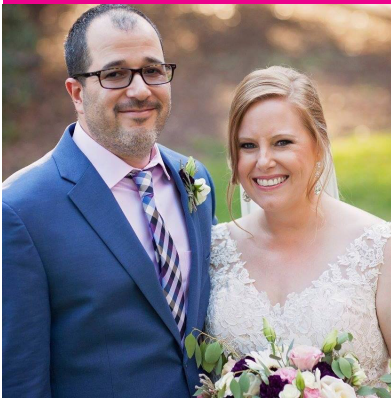
After six rounds of chemotherapy, an MRI declared Amy cancer-free. Doctors still advised her to have a lumpectomy on her right breast.

Because she was only 35 years old and had big plans for her future, Amy opted to have a double mastectomy to reduce the risk of her cancer ever coming back.

Amy finished flap reconstructive procedures in late 2018. She participated in the 2018 Walk for Life and Famously Hot Half Marathon, 5K + 10K, and raised more than \$1,000 for Prisma Health Breast Center with her team.

"I received so much from the Breast Center team," Amy said. "Participating in Walk for Life was a small way for me to give back."

Amy and Tony are looking forward to starting a family and living a long life together.



L-R: Lami Adama, Amy's neighbor; Michael Sheehan, Amy's father; Kathy Sheehan, Amy's mother; Sara Sheehan, Amy's sister; Amy; and Tony Rodriguez, Amy's husband

29th Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon, 5K + 10K

a Prisma Health Midlands Foundation signature fundraising event benefiting Prisma Health Breast Center

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 | Segra Park, 1640 Freed Street, Columbia

WalkForLifeColumbia.org

PRISMA HEALTHSM
MIDLANDS FOUNDATION

Proceeds will fund a 9th 3D mammography unit for Prisma Health Breast Center at Northeast Diagnostics in Columbia. Proceeds also will continue to fund educational materials, breast bears and post-mastectomy camisoles for Breast Center patients.