

Izabel G., 1983

Izabel was first diagnosed with stage C (with metastasis) nasal and sinus cancer when she was about 37 years old. In the pathway of the treatment over the years, she felt like she lost her personhood, as if she was now only a shadow of the beautiful and vivacious woman she was once. When asked who is, then, the real Izabel, she shared the fear that the disease would take away all of her, and let only this “patient” Izabel, who is always sick, feeling bad, ugly, weak, tired, and to whom doctors say “there is nothing else to do”.

For her, feeling health is a big part of who she is, since she works as a physical instructor in a famous gym in the city and has won several championships in her field. She says the major important things in her life are going to the gym to work out, hanging out with her friends, watching movies, and just “chilling at home”.

She says she believes in God, but has never attended a church, and doesn’t have the desire to attend now. She feels a connection with her spirituality through physical activities, walking in nature, and listening to music.

As for the care team, she hopes they can see her truly and work with an occupational therapist to regain her lost functionalities. She also has a lot of questions regarding her prognosis and feels like the palliative care team is “saving” her from other people who don’t care for her.