

1983/11/03 JD

Jessica: A 40-year-old married woman with two children diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.

Jessica struggles because she cannot be the person she was before she had cancer. She is an adventurous woman who loves to travel, learn new things, and embraces challenges. Now that she is in the hospital, she cannot pursue adventure, and she grieves that loss. She is also a music lover. She can listen to music on her iPhone, but she finds the constant noises, alarms, and hospital conversations make it difficult for her to enjoy music.

Jessica is also a woman who cares deeply about her family. She has a husband and two children. She worries about their wellbeing after her death. She also worries about her mother who is experiencing anticipatory grief. Her mother never expected that her daughter would die before her.

What gives Jessica “hope” is a belief that this life is not all there is, that she will have some kind of existence after she is gone.

Jessica wants the staff to know two things:

- 1) that Jessica is more than her illness. She is an adventurous woman who went on trips and has a family.
- 2) that the staff can be human around her – they can crack jokes and talk about their day. If they are not always serious, she will not think they don't care about her.