

Yoliswa Fatima Sherazi Vaal Triangle – Gauteng



In August 2013, whilst doing her monthly self-breast examination, Fatima Sherazi felt a lump in her right breast. Fortunately, through all the valuable information she had gained from volunteering at the Cancer Association of South Africa, Fatima knew to take immediate action.

As a state patient, she was referred to the Sebokeng Hospital where the doctors sent her for a scan and a biopsy. While waiting for the results of the biopsy, she received the amazing news that the long time struggle to become pregnant was confirmed. She and her husband were delighted.

However, one week later she received the horrific news that she had cancer. She was devastated – but with the support and advice from staff at the CANSA Vaal Care Centre, she managed to get through this devastating time.

Fatima was referred to Baragwaneth Hospital in Soweto and saw Professor Cubash because her situation was quite complicated having cancer and she was pregnant. The doctors told her that she had to make the most difficult decision – having an abortion; or going through with a mastectomy, with the various risks associated as it was still in the very early stages of her pregnancy.

She truly believed that the pregnancy was a gift from God and chose to have the operation. On 26 November 2013, she had a total mastectomy of her right breast.

In January 2014, she started 6 sessions of chemotherapy with her last session on 8 May 2014. During treatment, doctors were surprised that she had no ill effects from the Chemo. She believes that the grace of the Lord was with her the whole time.

On 6 June 2014, one month after her last chemo, she gave birth to a baby boy. Muso, meaning the ruler or king, was born a month premature weighing 2.6kg and healthy. Muso had to be born one month early to enable his mother to recover from chemo and the C-section before starting her radiation treatment on 29 July 2014.