

He did his first overnight at Boston Childrens' Hospital (BCH) at the end of May for apheresis (the process through which his cells were extracted for the gene therapy), or (as his parents explained it to him) when his cells were taken and sent to boot camp to train so they could do their job better. He was admitted to BCH for chemo and transplant on June 28. After four days of chemo and a couple days of rest, he received his transplant on July 6, 2021; he was released on day +17, (July 23, 2021).

Demitri's labs improved so quickly, that he was able to start school in the fall (returning only one day after his classmates). Had he done a traditional BMT, he would have lost another whole year of in-person learning at school, following an already too long disruption due to COVID. He has made social strides that would not have been possible for him if he were still doing remote learning. He has attained his blue belt, competed in a martial arts tournament, and showed leadership skills on the baseball field with his little league team. Go Demitri!

