

# Hasan's story

My name is Najah Ali, I am originally from Syria and I have a 13-year-old son called Hasan. Hasan was diagnosed with Crohn's disease two years ago, when he was 12.

## Before a diagnosis

I would describe life before Hasan's diagnosis for both my son and our whole family as very stressful.

“ I suddenly found that I was spending all of my time running from one hospital to the next, desperately trying to find a doctor who understood his condition. ”

## A life changing moment

When my son and I met Dr Maryam, she truly empathised with how badly we were suffering. She vowed to help with Hasan's condition and made his health her priority.

## Stigma

Hasan's ability to play and exercise with other children was really affected by the onset of Crohn's disease. But luckily, his close friends were very sympathetic towards him.

“ Being sick is not shameful; Allah (God) has done this as a test for us and we do not object. ”

## My support network

“ The most essential support for our family, was having a doctor who vowed to stand by our side. ”

## Diagnosis

We were advised to see a Gastroenterologist who, after visiting every day for a week, finally diagnosed Hasan with Crohn's disease.

“ Getting a diagnosis was not easy at all. Despite always being in hospitals and emergency departments, we never got answers. ”

## Immediate Feelings

It took months to accept Hasan's diagnosis. I was tearful and stressed at every appointment and only recently has that began to settle.

## Treatment

It took some time before his treatment controlled his symptoms; in the beginning the treatment didn't make him feel much better at all which was hard for us to deal with. Hasan lives an unrestricted life now and things are easier.

## The Future

“ Life must continue... with or without this disease. ”

