

11:12 (2 minutes)	Patient Story Brittany
11:15 - 12:15	Speakers Sarah McComb & Natalie Johnston

Hi there, my name is Brittany App. I experienced medical error in the Spring of 2017, which forever impacted my life. After a surgery I had, I ended up going into septic shock as well as having permanent damage to my body. The reason this occurred was because Tagaderm, an allergy I had stated on my chart, was used and caused adverse reactions. I spoke with the surgeon prior to mention the different items I am allergic to and concerns that I had due to my medical history of allergies and rare diseases. The day of the surgery my allergies were reviewed with my core team. The Tagaderm allergy and others were posted in my chart and medical alert bracelet, as well as communicated via “no adhesive” signs throughout the OR.

When I woke up in recovery, the nurse went to change my dressing and I said again "no Tagederm." I was not prepared for her response: "your surgeon used it so it's fine" and proceeded to place a new Tagederm/adhesive on.

Soon after, my chest hurt, my skin burned and itched, and I was in extreme pain. My incision and chest were already covered in hives, even after my dressing change. The following day I was released from the hospital, not knowing what my fate was going to be.

The incisions became blistered, blisters turned into infection, and within a week I was back in the hospital with sepsis. The port had to be removed and I was hospitalized for 2 weeks and dealt with extensive tissue damage that still impacts me and my health. I woke up with a hole in my chest and had to learn how to pack it until the site closed. Not only was there a physiological impact, but also the fear that this surgeon will come back and hurt me, that other medical staff had it ‘out’ for me, which caused me to then struggle to seek any form of treatment, especially surgical.

What if my charts were reviewed before the procedure?

What if the staff listened to me and treated me as a part of the core team?

What if Tagaderm wasn’t used and my allergies were taken seriously?