
My name is Megan Bruce. I was born in Hawera, Taranaki, nearly 47 years ago. I have lived in various places through the years. I am currently living in Paeroa with my husband David and our much loved and spoilt cat Simba.

I experienced very painful periods throughout my teenage years. I still remember going to the family doctor when I was 15 and being given the contraceptive pill to try and alleviate the pain I was experiencing. Although this did help for a while, I still had heavy periods. I would wear two pairs of underwear and forever had to change bedding. For some reason, which I still have not been able to fathom, the left side of my face used to swell up as well! It looked like I had the mumps, but it only happened during that "time of the month". Also, my mother made it very clear that I was not allowed to tell any boy that I was on the pill. I still laugh about this! I stayed on the pill until I was married to my first husband at 25. When I came off the pill, the pain that I had experienced during my teenage years was mild compared to what I was about to go through.

After being unable to conceive for three years I went to my GP. She made some notes and referred me to a gynaecologist in Hamilton. I was put on the infamous "waiting list" to have laparoscopic surgery. Luckily I didn't have to wait too long. I had the surgery done in Thames Hospital that September, which also involved a D&C (dilatation & curettage). Within 6 weeks I was pregnant. I guess you can imagine the elation that my husband and I felt. Unfortunately I miscarried and spent Christmas Eve in Thames Hospital.

After this, as we were now living in Papakura, I had several visits into Middlemore Hospital. Each time they thought it was my appendix. The pain was excruciating. Thankfully I had an amazing GP who referred me to Edwin Ozumba, a gynaecologist based at Middlemore. By this time my first husband and I had divorced. I had three laparoscopies and on the third one they diagnosed endometriosis! I was relieved that I finally had a name for what I was experiencing, because for some time I thought that I was a hypochondriac!

My endometriosis was so severe that within six weeks I was booked in to have a full abdominal hysterectomy. As I was single and in my 30's I didn't think that I would marry again. I was also planning my OE for late 1999. I didn't want to have to be in agony and not enjoy myself. In 1999 I met a fabulous man through the internet whom I am now married to. I was unable to have any children. However I have two nephews and two nieces that I love with all my heart! I have also been blessed with two great-nieces born in the past three years.

I have had two major surgeries for endometriosis since my hysterectomy. The first one I ended up having two surgeons - a gynaecologist (VP Singh) and a general surgeon (CK Reddy) operating on me. As my endometriosis was attached to my bowel, I had to have my bowel resected. The second surgery was in February 2008 and was done by Naylin Appanna.

As I write this story, I am booked to see Lakshmi Ravakanti on Monday 27 June. I am experiencing again a lot of pain, especially around the bowel area. The pain seems to intensify for 7-10 days every month even though I have had all my reproductive organs removed. I'm not sure how I came to find out about Insight Endometriosis, but I would just like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Annette and Deborah who do a fantastic job looking after us all.

For more information:

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