

Neurology

Stroke

Neurosurgery

Spine

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▶ **Leading Palm Beach County in NEUROLOGY, STROKE, NEUROSURGERY and SPINE care.**

Name: *Iraida Perez, 54, of Palm Beach Gardens*

Her story: *Wife; mother; friend ... SURVIVOR*

Treatment received at JFK: *Surgery to remove a brain tumor; chemotherapy and radiation treatments*

Before Iraida Perez started her work day at Palms West Hospital, she would stop at the hospital's chapel.

Every morning, the housekeeper would pray for a 1-year-old boy she knew was battling cancer in the hospital.

It was on one such day, mid-February of last year to be exact, that she lost her balance and fell.

She realized that she had been forgetting things, like where she parked her car, and decided to get checked out.

A CT scan revealed a baseball-

sized tumor in her right frontal lobe. Less than a week later she met Dr. Joshua Kouri.

Dr. Kouri would be performing her brain surgery on March 28, 2012.

"Dr. Kouri was like an angel to me," Iraida said. "He made me very comfortable right from the start. The first thing he said was to thank God that the tumor was in a location where it could be surgically removed. From then I knew I was in good hands."

"After the surgery, Dr. Kouri told me the biopsy was positive," Iraida recalled. "But I wasn't sad.

He was so kind. When one is sick one needs to feel like the doctor cares about you. He was very attentive and spent a lot of time with me."

Perez had no family history of cancer and, apart from frequent headaches, was the picture of perfect health. She had only seen doctors in the past for nasal inflammation and a sore throat. Combined with the headaches, doctors said she suffered from sinus infections.

"I had to undergo 35 sessions of radiation, Monday through Friday," she said.

Iraida's last treatment was last month, on Feb. 20. She continues to have follow-up appointments with Dr. Kouri – her next one is this month.

"I like him because he has the time to dedicate to you. He takes his time," Iraida says.

She is still in disbelief that all the time she was praying for the little boy with cancer, a tumor was growing inside of her.

But thanks to the team of doctors at JFK, Iraida says, she survived.

"After God, I owe JFK so very much," she said.

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The Neuroscience Institute at JFK Medical Center uses the latest technology, treatments and therapies to treat problems involving the brain, spine, cerebrovascular system and nervous system. Our patient-focused team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, and neuroradiologists offers a world-class continuum of care close to home.



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