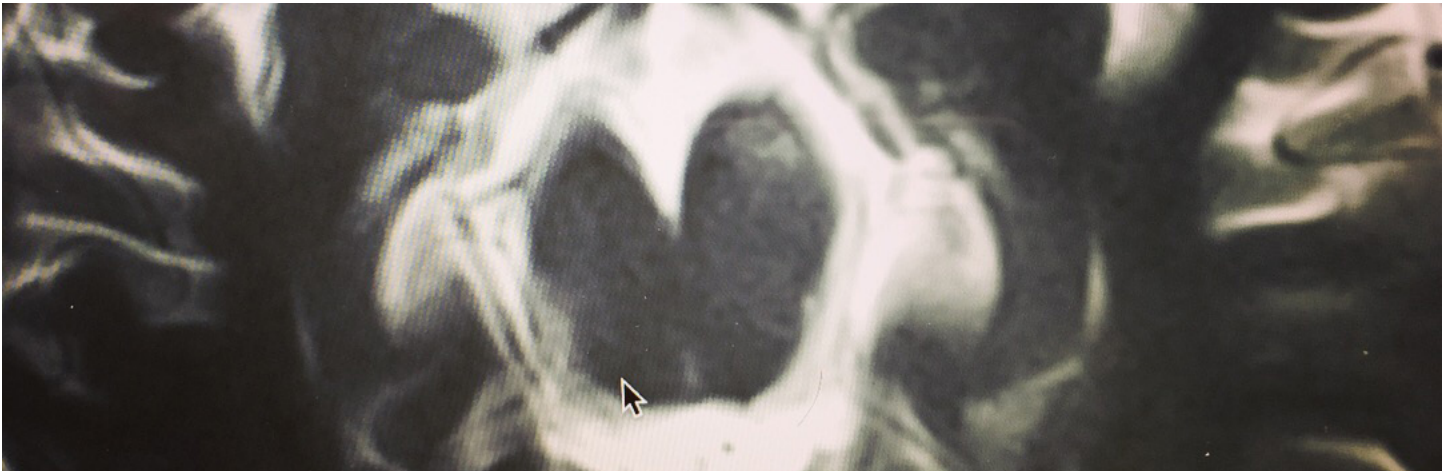


Why Focus on DIPG?



As parents learning about DIPG when Lucas was diagnosed, we were shocked that we had never heard of this deadly disease with no known causes or cures. It is both outrageous - and true - that there have been NO proven treatments developed for DIPG over the last 30+ years.

DIPG is a very difficult puzzle to solve for many reasons:



Lucas' MRI (shape of a heart)

IT IS RARE

While considered rare, ~250 previously healthy children diagnosed each year in the US feels like too many when the certain outcome is death. Still, it cannot compete with high-profile pervasive cancers for attention and funding.

IT IS QUICK

The tumor grows and spreads aggressively. The average lifespan for kids diagnosed with DIPG is 6-12 months. 6 months. That doesn't leave a lot of time for trial and absolutely no room for error.

IT IS SPREAD OUT

The disease doesn't form as a solid lump that can be surgically removed but rather as spread out clusters of cancerous cells located in the central stem where every single brain signal travels through.

IT IS BRUTAL

Children diagnosed with the disease are often pumped with steroids to manage the swelling effects of radiation. Kids with DIPG are often bloated, cross-eyed, unable to walk, talk, eat, speak, etc. Regardless of our best human intentions, it is often hard to witness a child suffering in this way.

IT IS LIKELY TO BE THE KEY

As one of the toughest cancers to beat, there has been much scientific speculation that finding a cure for DIPG could unlock important answers for all other cancers. **That's why many researchers believe it to be the HOMERUN cure.**



THE LOVE4LUCAS FOUNDATION

The Love4Lucas Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in honor of Lucas Harashima by his parents, Sansan and Hide Harashima.

Our mission is three-fold:

- To bring attention to and raise awareness of DIPG
- To fund research specifically geared towards finding innovative treatment options and a cure for DIPG
- To provide financial grants to help families of children diagnosed with DIPG

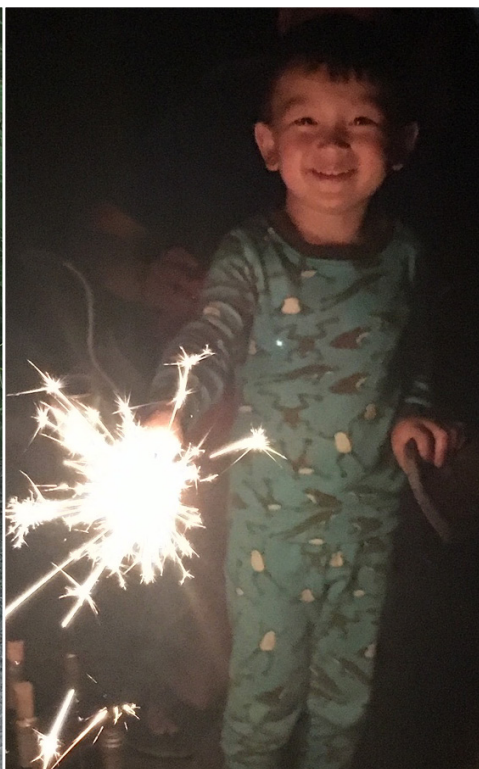
All research donations will be carefully applied to innovative research that we believe will improve survival rates for children who are diagnosed with DIPG. The Love4Lucas Foundation is a community-driven nonprofit organization and our fundraising activities are executed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Please consider making a donation today.

Cash/Check/Credit cards accepted

Donations are tax-deductible

www.love4lucas.com/donate



LUCAS HARASHIMA

May 24, 2011 - March 21, 2018

On September 17th, 2016, our little boy Lucas (age 5) was diagnosed with DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma). DIPG is a terminal cancer residing in the brainstem - and one doctors hate because it is inoperable. We did everything we possibly could to combat the cancer and chase new science, light and hope for Lucas. In the end, it simply wasn't enough. Lucas died on March 21, 2018, just a few months shy of his 7th birthday.

As parents going through this, we can assure you there is no greater heartbreak. When something like this happens, you understand in an instant what truly matters in life. What matters to us now is doing everything we can to shine a bright light on DIPG and funding much-needed research towards finding a cure.

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In Honor of LUCAS & FRIENDS

Monterrey, Mexico 2017

We were lucky to be part of a club no one wants to join. Because there is no cure, DIPG families from first-world countries - Sweden, Greece, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Australia and more - gathered in Monterrey, Mexico to seek experimental treatment to give our kids a chance.

We knew these families, loved their kids and let our hearts break over and over each time we lost a child to DIPG.

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BRAIN CANCER IS #1

In 2016 (and likely true as early as 2011), it was officially announced that brain tumors had surpassed leukemia as the #1 killer of children with cancer. Luckily, this isn't because more kids are diagnosed with brain tumors each year. Rather, it's because more progress has been made to prevent deaths from leukemia. **Attention and funding.** That is what made a difference for leukemia and that is what will put pressure on research industries to tackle DIPG.

But the truth is, each year, only a small percentage of research funds goes to pediatric cancers; a fraction of that for brain cancers, and an almost non-existent portion for DIPG. We were worried that our little foundation wouldn't raise enough money to make a dent. We have since learned that DIPG research is mostly family funded by small organizations just like ours. So it's critically important; and if we don't do it, who will?

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