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two things that identify me as a female: my breasts and my hair. I proceeded to do daily affirmations, believing my body would line up with what I was saying.

I began dressing for each treatment in a comfortable yet stylish outfit, which would make me feel better. But I noticed that some fellow patients at the chemo center looked sad or sick, so I'd offer tips on how to look prettier, and they'd say thank you.

After chemotherapy and 33 cycles of radiation, I was given a 97-percent cure rate, so we decided to try having a

Finding the Will to Fight

As Told To MIYA WILLIAMS
Prior to her TV fame, Jacqueline Walters, M.D., of the hit Bravo reality series *Married to Medicine*, struggled with infertility and faced a two-time battle with breast cancer. Here, the 51-year-old OBGYN to the stars shares how she defeated the disease that changed her perspective on life.

It took a moment before the news hit me when I first heard my diagnosis over the phone. In fact, I continued to see patients as usual. But after the third appointment I started to cry—no sobbing, just tears streaming down my face. Once I contacted my husband Curtis and he came to my office, everything suddenly became more real.

Curtis and I had married in 2002 and after a year or so we wanted to try to have a child. Several months later, I got pregnant but then miscarried; within two weeks of that, in early 2004, a mammogram indicated the need for a biopsy. I was diagnosed with cancer in my left breast. These events happened so close together, I was barely able to process losing the baby. I had stage I infiltrating lobular carcinoma, which required two lumpectomies and chemotherapy. It was devastating to mess with

baby again. But, the chemo had prompted early menopause. Yet, we kept at it, even using infertility drugs. Then, in 2008, when I was 44, a mammogram and an MRI found distorted tissue in my right breast. A biopsy revealed it was cancer again.

The diagnosis was stage I infiltrating mucinous carcinoma; a double mastectomy was now necessary. I was completely unprepared for this, but multiple doctors agreed. My spiritual understanding helped me realize this was something I needed to go through; in fact, it helped build up my faith. I used Psalm 118:17, which essentially says, "I will live so I can tell what God has done for me." Whenever I found myself feeling low or fearful, I turned to the Bible.

Six months after the successful surgery, we tried to adopt but were turned down because of my health issues. It hurt, but I've come to accept it. Sometimes during deliveries, I still wish I had a child of my own, but I'm grateful for my healing and do all I can to give back.

After my double mastectomy, for each breast cancer patient in my practice, I started creating care packages filled with items that I'd found useful, such as a heating wrap for sore muscles and cute pajamas that are easy to slide down. In 2013, I launched 50 Shades of Pink, a foundation whose vision is to nurture both the psychological and physical well-being of breast cancer survivors and their support systems.

I'm cancer-free now and thankful for my wonderful husband and friends who helped me get through it. I tell survivors and other women with infertility that you can't fight with tears in your eyes. So cry, get it out, scream and holler, then let's fight together.

*100% odor protection from odor typically noticed by others
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