



My name is Richard.

I live in Brooklyn, New York.

What made me want to get tested?

Testing was available at the time. I said let me just check to see if I have it. It was in 1992 and I came out positive for having Hep C. I didn't know anything about it. I didn't know what it was doing to my body. When I found out, I felt like "Wow!", but I knew there was a chance that I had it. I thought about my family, and I was afraid that I was about to die.

I didn't get treated until 2015. VOCAL has helped me a lot. They helped me take the medication, told me that they have new medication and it's better.

I've got a 32 year-old daughter and grandkids. My youngest son is 10. I had to try and cure myself so I could be around as much as I can for my son. My doctors treated me good. I took their advice, don't drink alcohol, and eat healthy, that's it.

I feel much stronger. When you have Hep C, you're just tired all the time. I did everything my doctor told me to do and I'm here today. I feel happier now. I just live day-by-day, I pray to god, go to church. I turned my life around. I try to stay away from the drugs, it's hard, but I've been doing good. If you ever get high, use a brand new needle, one time, and throw it away. Don't share them.

I've been cured, but I still have cirrhosis of the liver. Everyone should get tested. Knowing your status sooner could benefit you living longer. I wish everybody would just check themselves.

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HEP 

Test. Treat. Cure. Live.