



Becky Vinehout

For Becky Vinehout, a hair designer from Yorkville, IL, a person's hair style plays a huge role in how a they feel about themselves physically and psychology every day.

"When you look good on the outside, you feel better on the inside."

Becky knows this from personal experience, not only from her profession, but from undergoing brain surgery in September 2012. Becky had lived with epilepsy her entire life and as her seizures and their side effects increased over time, she decided to have the surgery. This was not an easy decision.

There are risks involved in this procedure, however Becky found a way to manage her fears.

"I arrived at the hospital with my hair cut and colored to hide my incision. It was my first step in the healing process. I visualized a positive image before the surgery even began. It gave me a sense of control."

Becky was also concerned how her children would respond to her surgery and wanted them to feel safe and secure. "I didn't want them to see my incision and with the hairstyle I created, they couldn't even see my stitches," she recalls. "My experience as a hair designer allowed me to understand that covering the incision relieved emotional stress for me, my family, and friends. I was complimented on how well I looked and I began to believe it as well as live it."

Becky wanted others to share her experience and created Pre-Surgical Hair Design, a service for people who will undergo brain surgery. She provides consultation to develop a strategy that fits a person's specific hairstyle needs and then will work with them before the surgery to create a hair design which covers the incision site area. There are no wigs involved. She works to stylize the person's actual hair.

Now seizure free, Becky would like to see others not have to deal with epilepsy for as long as she did.

"I can empathize with a patient because I understand the emotional and physical stress on everyone effect by epilepsy. I am a hairdresser, so I understand the importance of having a nice haircut and hair color. There have been candidates for surgery but have avoided it because of their hair.

"My hair style was an intricate part of the healing process. A positive image speeds up recovery. I was mentally stronger and walked with confidence."