

Stephanie Freeman:

I think probably at 15 or 16 weeks pregnant, right before the holidays, I felt a lump and I immediately got a biopsy done.

Morgan Swank, MD:

As soon as her malignancy was confirmed and the plan moving forward with the oncology team was set into motion, I was also asked to be part of the team. So our department and my subspecialty is maternal fetal medicine, and we have an important role here at Kaiser Permanente as an adjunct to the OB-GYN department.

Stephanie Freeman:

Before I even met with Dr. Swank, she called me, and my mom and I talked to her while she was on speakerphone in the car, and she just wanted to reassure us that the baby was going to be fine.

Morgan Swank, MD:

I think when Stephanie and AJ arrived in my office, that first day that we met, the question was, chemotherapy in pregnancy, is that really an option? How am I, as a pregnant woman, going to tolerate chemotherapy in pregnancy and how is my growing baby going to respond to that?

Stephanie Freeman:

Doing chemo while pregnant was really scary, but I was reassured by Dr. Swank and by Dr. Freeman. I think that was the biggest thing, is finding the doctors that I trusted the most and that I felt like understood that I was pregnant and really understood that I wanted to keep this baby and make sure that she was okay.

Leila is a gem. She is just such a sweetheart, and she's an amazing sleeper, and an amazing eater, and always smiling.

Morgan Swank, MD:

So she is feisty and she's a fighter just like her mom. To go through what Stephanie went through in the pregnancy and what Leila went through, so I think that bond they have is pretty special.