

LaTasha's Testimony: An Adventurous Attorney's Strong Case for Peritoneal Dialysis with the Liberty[®] Select Cycler



Most people would never know LaTasha has kidney disease, and that suits her just fine. As an attorney with the Department of Labor, she crisscrosses the southeastern U.S. defending the safety and wellbeing of America's workforce. During time off, her hobbies, activities, and travels are enough to spark admiration, if not a bit of surprise. And to help make it all possible, she relies on her care team and peritoneal dialysis with her **Liberty Select cycler**.

A diabetic since high school, the 39-year-old Nashville resident began to see her kidney function decline in 2013. At that point, LaTasha's nephrologist advised her to start learning about dialysis options.

"I went through a class," she recalls. "They talked about in-center hemodialysis and then home dialysis. When the nurse explained that PD was likely a great option for frequent traveling, I was sold."

With her modality chosen, it became a waiting game as to when LaTasha would have to start dialysis. Then in 2018, she got sick while vacationing in the Caribbean. She thought it was food poisoning, but a visit to the hospital revealed it wasn't simply bad sushi – LaTasha was dangerously uremic. She crashed into dialysis and spent 11 days in the hospital waiting for a chair at a nearby clinic.

"They were able to find me a chair but it was around their timeframe, not mine," says LaTasha.



Though she never wanted to go in-center, LaTasha made the most of her experience. She worked remotely on her treatment days (3 times a week), often bringing a briefcase and computer for her chair time. She tried her best to be an encouragement to other patients. But after a couple of months, she was ready to transition to PD.

In February 2019, LaTasha had her PD catheter inserted and trained on the Liberty Select cycler during the month of March. Given the amount of time she spends away from home, she arranged to get a travel case for the cycler from her care team. Her goal was to be ready for a trip with her girlfriends in May. She made the journey, dialyzed each night, and was able to participate in virtually every activity.



"One thing I am so appreciative of is how I feel afterwards," says LaTasha of her PD experience. "I can function." In her case, "function" is a very relative term.

For LaTasha it means everything from working to ziplining to ATVing to nights out dancing to golfing in Arizona with her best friend.*

"It really works for me," she says of her Liberty Select cycler. "Through all my circumstances, it just works."

LaTasha acknowledges that PD therapy takes hard work and preparation, especially given there are no days off. But she finds ways to break up the monotony. Hands-free technology like smart home devices and smart phones allow her to set timers and play music without the worry of contamination.

"If you have a song you know is three minutes long, that takes care of cleaning the end of your port," she told us. "You find little ways to make time not seem so long."

Like most dialysis patients, LaTasha hopes that one day she'll receive a transplant. But while she's waiting, she'll do everything but wait around.

"If you do what your doctor and care team tell you and get your treatments done, it's possible to maintain your health while you're waiting on a kidney," she advises. "And keep living life as life is meant to be lived."

That's LaTasha's life with Liberty.

* Individuals experiences vary. Check with your physician before taking on any new activity.

For more information on peritoneal dialysis with the Liberty Select cycler, call your local home therapy sales representative.

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