

This is a testimony that I would like to be read by each of you. It is a translation of a long letter sent by a young mother who discovered that she was suffering from breast cancer when she was pregnant. After several months, she asked our beautician "how can I thank the CEW and the Donor?" Our beautician answered : "just by writing what you feel"

## <u>Testimony</u>

*Olivia 34. Severe breast cancer discovered on her first pregnancy medical check. Cured at IGR since november 2014. Masectomy.* 

"I was so thunderstricken when I was told I was suffering breast cancer and that I will loose one, may be two breasts, that I did not want to talk to anybody whether at the hospital or with my friends. I had the feeling that I will never be a normal woman after the surgery. I felt guilty to think about my femininity while the most important was to stay alive for my new born child and my husband.

2 days after the masectomy, the Cew beautician came to my room (sent by the nurse) and explained to me that I was going to face many changes in my appearance and skin comfort and that she could help me to overcome these alterations for free. She looked so cheerful and understanding that I told her all my fears for the present and the future. She said that the psychiatrist and herself could help me to fight against these fears and recover my morale and my femininity during my stay at the hospital and after when I will be at day hospital.

I am still coming to the hospital every 3 weeks after my second masectomy for Chimiotherapy. Difficult day! But I am very fortunate because the CEW Beautician Olga, manages to give me one hour every time

I want to explain how important this moment is for me.

When I was staying at the hospital, the beautician was very supportive and positive (in the perfect way, not too much) explaining what was or will be happening to my hair, my eyebrows, my nails my skin and how to make that up. She made me looking almost normal when my family, specifically my husband, were with me. She showed me how to do it myself when I get back home.

Now during my day chimiotherapy, she is the positive moment of the day. When I was back home, my husband offered me to go to the beautician in town. But it is so different. It is embarrassing to take the wig off, to show my scars. I fear a wrong manipulation, the use of a wrong product. And you have to sign a paper saying that the beautician is not responsible for anything! She does not understand my weaknesses and my needs and looks at me with pity.

When I am with the CEW beautician in IGR I do not feel as a patient. Each time the care is different. Either make up or modelage or, when I feel more than exhausted a full body cream application or a manicure.

I am thouroughly grateful to the CEW France and its donor for the efficient and human help in such a difficult moment in my life.

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