

# Alex Smith's daughter recovering from brain surgery for 'very rare' tumor

By Cindy Boren

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Former NFL quarterback Alex Smith praised his “sweet, selfless, intelligent, hilarious, witty, fun-loving” daughter’s strength while announcing she is recovering from brain surgery to remove a “very rare malignant tumor.”

Smith wrote on Instagram on Saturday that Sloane, youngest of his three children with his wife, Elizabeth, and their only daughter, was stricken with “strokelike symptoms” May 10.



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This is Sloane Kenzington Smith, our baby, the youngest of three and our only girl. She is sweet, selfless, intelligent, hilarious, witty, fun-loving, an artist, a singer, and a dancing machine. But most of all she is an incredibly strong girl that has a ton of fight in her.

The first picture was taken just a couple weeks—before our lives changed. On May 10th, Sloane was rushed to the ER with stroke-like symptoms. She had an MRI and the doctors quickly informed us she had a large brain tumor and needed an emergency craniotomy.

The 10 hour procedure was the most excruciating time of our lives. A clock has never moved so slowly. The incredible neurosurgeons [@stanfordchildrens](#) did a miraculous job and were able to remove 100% of the tumor.

Sloane—in her true form—bounced back from brain surgery like a rockstar! She didn't skip a beat. After weeks of waiting on pathology, we learned that Sloane's tumor is a very rare malignant tumor with very few documented cases—without a clear road map for treatment. We are currently awaiting more tests and gathering as many opinions as we can from doctors across the country to decide the best path forward. We wish this were easy, clear-cut and someone gave us a how-to guide. It's anything but that.

All we know is what is most important—and that's SLOANE. She has healed from surgery. Back to her bubbly self. Singing, dancing, laughing and feeling good.

I know we don't post much about our kids but we felt necessary to post this and say THANK YOU. Thank you to our amazing medical team, family, friends, acquaintances and even some strangers who have touched our lives in the last month and a half. We have struggled to keep up on calls, texts, communication and trying to keep loved ones updated. This has been by far the most challenging time we have EVER been through. We know it's not over and we have a journey ahead of us, but without all of you we could not have gotten this far. We are sorry if we seem withdrawn. It's because we are... We have been inundated with doctors appointments, scans, labs and trying our best to navigate through this. Most importantly, we're healing together as a family.

❤️ The Smiths

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He explained that doctors informed the Smiths that she “had a large brain tumor and needed an emergency craniotomy.”

Waiting through 10 hours of surgery at Stanford Children's Health was “the most excruciating time of our lives,” he wrote. Neurosurgeons, he said, removed all of the tumor and Sloan “in her true form — bounced back from brain surgery like a rock star! She didn't skip a beat.”

However, pathology determined she had “a very rare malignant tumor with very few documented cases — without a clear road map for treatment. We are currently awaiting more tests and gathering as many opinions as we can from doctors across the country to decide the best path forward. We wish this were easy, clear-cut and someone gave us a how-to guide. It's anything but that.”

The 6-year-old “has healed” and is “back to her bubbly self. Singing, dancing, laughing and feeling good.” He added that “most of all she is an incredibly strong girl that has a ton of fight in her.”

Smith thanked “our amazing medical team, family, friends, acquaintances and even some strangers who have touched our lives in the last month and a half. We have struggled to keep up on calls, texts, communication and trying to keep loved ones updated. This has been by far the most challenging time we have EVER been through. We know it’s not over and we have a journey ahead of us, but without all of you we could not have gotten this far.”

Alex and Elizabeth Smith were open about his long recovery and comeback from the leg fracture that altered his NFL career, sharing the story with ESPN and speaking about how his life was jeopardized by infection. He apologized in his post for seeming “withdrawn” in the face of this challenge.

“We have been inundated with doctors appointments, scans, labs and trying our best to navigate through this. Most importantly, we’re healing together as a family,” he wrote.