

DitM - 02 Being there for Patients _Erika Hedtcke

Transcript of Audio from the Backstory Clip

[DitM - Erika Hedtcke - 02 Being there for Patients.mp3](#)

00:00:04 There is a huge emotional journey that these patients go through the first time that they look in the mirror, they have to come to terms with losing an eye. And then we give them a prosthetic and they have to come to terms with being healed but different, and each patient handles that in a different way. It's something that they have to get used to.

00:00:30 A lot of patients struggle emotionally with 'Should I be driving?' or 'How is this going to affect how people look at me? Can people tell that my eye is artificial?' And it's a big challenge between what they physically present to the world and what is going on inside them, especially if the cause of their eye loss was abuse or a car accident or something that they have to deal with the trauma of that emotionally and then also grieve losing a body part.

00:01:00 Getting to be a part of that, we're able to at least help the healing process begin. There's been many patients I've sat and cried with many patients that just they need a hug and we get to do that and then we get to give them an even bigger hug at the end of the day when we can show them that they're going to be OK, their life doesn't have to change. They will still look normal and they can still move on with their life and this is just one more part of their story and very grateful to be a part of it. And to get to walk through it with them.

00:01:34 I'm grateful that I get to hear experiences that not a lot of people get to hear. And I get to hold someone's hand through what might be one of the toughest parts of their life and then watch them get up and do something incredible afterwards. And that means everything.