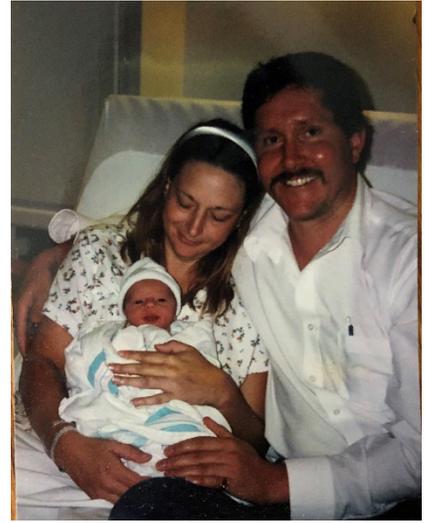


Grateful Parents Thank Barrow for Saving Daughter after AVM Rupture

It's every parent's worst nightmare to see their child suffering and not being able to help. That's exactly what we experienced when our beloved daughter, Joey Jean, was diagnosed with a brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM), an abnormal tangle of blood vessels, at only 14 years old.

Explaining to Joey Jean that her AVM was inoperable, even though it could rupture and bleed at any moment, was one of the most painful things we ever had to do. Joey Jean was the most precious thing in the world to us and we vowed to do everything in our power to find a solution for her. We spoke with countless neurosurgeons across the country, but they all said the same thing: they could only help manage the symptoms, not treat the actual AVM.



Joseph and Lisa with baby Joey

Then, we met Michael T. Lawton, MD, President and CEO of Barrow Neurological Institute. He was the only surgeon who offered us a treatment plan, proposing that Joey Jean undergo Gamma Knife radiosurgery to shrink the AVM to an operable size. It was Dr. Lawton who gave us the hope that we so desperately needed to keep moving forward.

Joey Jean agreed to do the radiation treatment, but it wasn't easy on her. She didn't want any of her classmates to know what she was going through and she threw herself into her schoolwork, forgoing spending time with friends and family to study for hours on end. We truly believe that Joey Jean thought that if she was making straight A's, everything would be okay. As parents, that broke our hearts.

Despite everything, Joey Jean finished all four radiation treatments in time for her senior year of high school. She started to get excited about college and plan for the future. It was beautiful to see our daughter finally look forward to something again. Then, one year later, the unthinkable happened.



Joseph and Lisa at Joey Jean's college graduation.

We received a frantic phone call from Joey Jean's college professor telling us that she had passed out during class and needed us to come pick her up. It was one of the scariest moments in our lives. Things only got worse when we finally got to the hospital. The doctor informed us that Joey Jean's AVM had ruptured, causing her to suffer a stroke. There was no more waiting—she needed to have brain surgery to remove the AVM. We knew without a doubt that Dr. Lawton would be her

surgeon. He was the only one we trusted with our beloved daughter.

On May 23, 2019, the day we had been fearing for years finally arrived. Seconds ticked by like hours as our daughter underwent not one, but two, surgeries in less than 24 hours to completely remove the AVM. We hoped for the best, but feared for the worst. All we could do was put our faith in Dr. Lawton.

It is impossible to describe the relief, joy, and love that filled our hearts when Joey Jean opened her eyes and the first thing she asked was to see us. It is a moment that we will cherish forever. And we have Dr. Lawton to thank for it.

Four years later and our daughter is thriving. She's achieved her dream of becoming a pediatric ICU nurse, helping other children just like the Barrow nurses helped her. We could not be more proud of Joey Jean or more thankful to Dr. Lawton and Barrow for having her here with us today.

Please join us in supporting the incredible work of the Barrow Aneurysm and AVM Research Center, which is led by Dr. Lawton, so more patients like our daughter have a chance at a long, healthy life. All gifts will be matched up to \$100,000.

With gratitude,

Joseph Farmer Lisa Kuciejczyk

Parents of Barrow AVM patient Joey Jean Farmer