

Burbank High sophomore is 'one tough cookie'

■ Adrienne Wilson endures chemotherapy treatments during summer months, works to maintain 4.0 GPA.

Gary Moskowitz
THE LEADER

MEDIA DISTRICT NORTH — The hardest thing for Adrienne Wilson to deal with is that she might have contracted Hepatitis B and C while just a fetus in her mother's womb.

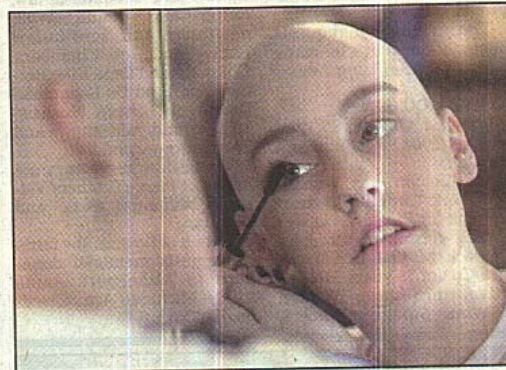
Adrienne, a 15-year-old sophomore at Burbank High School with a 4.0 grade-point average, was diagnosed in May with hepatocellular carcinoma — a rare liver cancer among young adults that has a direct correlation to Hepatitis

B and C. She plans to spend her summer and fall in chemotherapy at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

Despite the roller coaster of emotions that Adrienne has been forced to deal with in her 15 years, she has taken an active, positive role in her illness.

"Instead of waiting for my hair to fall out from the chemotherapy, we shaved my hair into four little Mohawks," Adrienne said. "And I have taken myself off certain pills that I thought were making things worse."

Marcio Malogolowkin, Adrienne's primary physician and director of the bone and soft tissue tumor program at the hospital, said that Adrienne more than likely con-



SCOTT ROBY / THE LEADER

Adrienne Wilson, 15, applies some mascara before heading to the ballet with her sister. Adrienne was diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma in May, a rare liver cancer in young adults that has a direct correlation with Hepatitis B and C.

SEE TOUGH PAGE A6

TOUGH

CONTINUED FROM A1

tracted Hepatitis B and C while in her mother's womb. And although Adrienne's condition is stable, any patient undergoing chemotherapy is under major risk of infection.

Since she was 8, Adrienne has been taken care of by her 28-year-old sister Andrea.

"Anyone who knows Adrienne knows she is one tough cookie," Andrea said. "If she hadn't gone through such a rough childhood, I don't know if she would have handled this as well as she has."

Andrea recently took Adrienne — a fan of music and dance — to a performance of "Giselle," a ballet Adrienne had been looking forward to for weeks and almost missed due to an emergency trip to the hospital the night before.

Adrienne takes about 16

pills each day, some which make her nauseated, and she receives shots every morning to keep her white blood cell count up.

No matter what has been thrown her way, Adrienne has big plans for the future.

"I'm looking forward to going to college to study zoology and religion," she said.