



Saturday, Dec 3, 2011 | Updated 9:22 PM EST

SICK CHILDREN GET A RIDE ON A BLIMP

MetLife and the non-profit Believe In Tomorrow National Children's Foundation sponsored the ride for patients with life-threatening illnesses at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital



Cancer patient Lena Paul got a break from routine treatments and doctors appointments Saturday morning aboard the MetLife Snoopy I blimp.

"It was fun, I was nauseated but then he stabilized," said Paul, 13, who has been battling leukemia since last August.

Paul said this was her first time up in the air. MetLife and the non-profit Believe In Tomorrow National Children's Foundation sponsored the ride for patients with life-threatening illnesses at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

"All your worries are gone," said Paul, moments after the ride. "You could see when you're up there, you could see the oceans, the other airports and stuff, it's really cool."

She said the ride gave her high hopes. Paul shared her excitement with her older brother Antonio, who came along for the 15-minute trip.

"It's good to see her have fun, go up in the air and get out of the hospital," Antonio Stidham said.

The breezy conditions forced the pilot to cut the typically hourlong trip short. But Paul says it was enough to take her mind off cancer and leave her worries on the ground.

"It's awesome that foundations will let you go ride," she said.