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Being born with supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) has had a profound impact on my life. Although living with a heart condition at the start of my life has posed its challenges, it has also instilled in me a unique drive to succeed and has significantly influenced my decision to pursue a career as a diagnostic medical sonographer. This condition has shaped the person I am today and continues to fuel my determination to achieve my goals.

SVT is a condition where the heart beats much faster than normal, often without any warning. I was diagnosed with it at three months old when after a checkup I was rushed to the hospital because I was in cardiac arrest. Growing up, I had to be more conscious of my health than most kids my age. I had to take three types of medications, four times a day. I had to wear monthly heart monitors. This early awareness of my vulnerability taught me the importance of taking care of myself physically and mentally. It also gave me a deep understanding of how crucial healthcare professionals are in diagnosing and treating heart conditions. Many times, I have had to visit doctors and undergo various tests to monitor my heart. Eventually, I had surgery at the young age of 5. This experience has sparked a fascination with the medical field and a particular interest in diagnostic technologies.

Rather than allowing my condition to hinder me, I have used it as motivation to push forward and not take my health or life for granted. Having SVT has made me resilient. I know

what it's like to face uncertainty, to live with the knowledge that my heart might act unpredictably. Instead of succumbing to fear or frustration, I've learned to embrace challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth. This mindset has carried over into my academic and personal life, pushing me to work hard and stay focused on my goals, despite the occasional setbacks I might face with my health.

This drive for success, shaped by the experience of living with a chronic condition, is what has influenced my decision to pursue a career in diagnostic medical sonography. As a diagnostic medical sonographer, I would be responsible for using imaging technology to help doctors diagnose conditions like heart disease, which is something I understand intimately. I've had countless echocardiograms and other tests to monitor my SVT, and the precision and skill that go into these diagnostic procedures have always fascinated me. I realized that I want to be the person on the other side of the ultrasound machine, working directly with patients to gather the information that could make a difference in their health.

Moreover, my condition has given me a strong sense of empathy for others dealing with medical challenges. I understand the anxiety that comes with waiting for test results or wondering about the unknowns of a medical condition. As a diagnostic medical sonographer, I would have the opportunity to not only help diagnose conditions but also offer comfort and support to patients during their exams. The ability to make someone feel at ease while helping them understand their health would be incredibly rewarding.

In conclusion, being born with supraventricular tachycardia has profoundly impacted my life in ways I never could have imagined. While it has posed challenges, it has also provided me

with a sense of resilience, a deep empathy for others, and a passion for the healthcare field.

These factors have driven me to pursue a career as a diagnostic medical sonographer, where I can combine my personal experiences with my desire to help others.