

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Stressed
Music:

Wed, 4 Jun 2008

1:46 PM

Called Dr. Greber

<p>Called Dr. Greber and left a message.</p>

<p>Offices closed!</p>

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Restless
Music:

Thu, 5 Jun 2008

2:04 PM

Eye Dr. Update

<p>Called Dr. Greeber Today - Thursday since they had not called back. THEY took a message for him and he did not get back to me until 5:30pm. He said he was booked, but might be able to fit me in on Friday and to call Friday morning.</p>

<p>!!!!!!! Vision & pain worse !!!!!!!</p>

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Frustrated
Music:

Fri, 6 Jun 2008

9:07 AM

Bring the pain...

<p>Called Dr. Greber 1st thing Today. He could not fit me in and probably did not have the right equipment to take care of this issue. He set me up an appointment with Dr. Chotner @ Memorial Eye for 11am.</p>

<p> </p>

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Rejected
Music:

12:30 AM

Next Please - Dr. Chotners Office

<p>Dr. Chotner's office performed a full eye exam including a field of vision test which I failed miserably in the right eye. He noticed "folds" on the back of my retina and scurried around to make an appointment

for an MRI @ 3:00pm.</p>

<p>MRI? Oh goodie never had one of those before. It was like stuffing 100lbs (yes I weigh more than that) of potatoes into a 25lb sack.</p>

<p>So the MRI was over around 4:45 (some half hour, eh?) - after telling them not to inject the dye into my right arm, they did it anyway and learned (I will teach, they will learn) and did it in my left arm.</p>

<p>Dr. Chotner got the Radiologist report and said I should go to Hershey Emergency room and get an IV drip of Steroids for 3 days. What he should have said was 3 days in a row as an out patient, not 24 hrs. a day for 3 days straight. Dr. Chotner also indicated that the Radiologist saw active spots of MS (Multiple Sclerosis) on the MRI. Time for a Neurology appointment...</p>

<p>I did not get the IV drip as my Niece Anna was having a graduation party and getting her the Apple Mac Book Pro Laptop and eating dinner @ Bricco with most of the family was way more important.</p>

<p>Technology & Family 1st!!!!!!!</p>

Vison = crappy

Pain = tolerable - Martini Please!!

Security: Public

Location: Other

Mood: Aggravated

Music:

Mon, 9 Jun 2008

2:47 PM

Neurology Appointment - Blood - Tests - More Tests

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I met with Dr. Barbara O'Connell for a neurological exam and interpretation of the MRI from Friday. I passed all the reflex tests. She was able to study the MRI and make mention of multiple small pin points of “active lesions, pre-permanently damaged” MS spots. She also indicated that the right eye was slower to react to her light tests and that the Optical nerve damage / inflammation clearly showed on the MRI. She indicated that this is the initial sign of MS, but MS runs a wide range of little or no effect to the extreme deterioration of the nervous system. Thank you GOOGLE.com!</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Dr. O'Connell sent me for blood work as well today which is being done for cell counts & glucose tests among others. She is arranging for the 3 visit IV steroid drip at an “Infusion center” in the next day or so.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Vision loss and pain in my right eye has slightly increased since I first noticed “something” that I thought was another sinus headache back on 5/30.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I am very optimistic over what is to come as this is very manageable and treatable.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

size="3"> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Thank you to Debbie & her network of medical experts, Anne’s knowledge, research and guidance, all of your support and the Love of my Life – Nicole.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I will keep everyone posted.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Love,</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Dave</p>

Security: Public

Location: Other

Mood: Restless

Music:

Tue, 10 Jun 2008

2:49 PM

Infusion Confusion - Wheres the Beef?

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I did not go to the infusion center today. I called Dr. O’Connell’s office and spoke with her assistant this morning since I had not heard anything. She said she was glad I called and that they wanted to run more blood tests. I asked if they could just use what I had given yesterday and she acted like she never would have thought of that. She is submitting for the following tests:</p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">-Sedimentation

Rate<o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">-Rheumatoid Factor<o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">-Align Tighter (sp?)<o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">-ANA (which the Dr. assistant did not know what this was)<o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I asked when I was supposed to report to the infusion center and when the prescribed drugs were to be taken. They said that they were waiting for a call back from the infusion center to make arrangements. I asked them to call them back and not wait. As of 3:45pm I have not heard anything.<o:p></o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><font

face="Calibri">The Prednisone is to be taken starting the day after the last steroid infusion. The EpiPen is to be used if I am out and have a ‘reaction’.</p></p><p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><o:p> </o:p></p><p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">The infusion center is:</p><p class="MsoNormal" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Andrews & Patelt</p>

Security: Public
Location: Not Specified
Mood: Not Specified
Music:

Wed, 11 Jun 2008
2:59 PM

1st Infusion

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Had my 1st infusion of steroids today which went well. They took blood prior to the infusion to do cell counts. They originally told me 45 minutes for the drip, but the attending infusionist (Diane) told me that my 1st one would be done over 2.5 hours which it was.</p>

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I had a reaction (tight/heavy chest, flushing, sweats) after the high dose of steroids was almost complete. They shut off the steroid bag & added Tagamet & Benadryl to the saline drip and within a minute I felt fine. Finished the remainder of the steroids. Diane asked if I was glad they did it over 2.5 hours instead of the 45 minutes (Yes).</p>

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Did not go back to work. Went home and slept for about 90 minutes. Had a nice dinner with Nicole.</p>

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">I confirmed with Dr. O’Connell’s office that they were able to finish the testing with the blood drawn from Monday including the test for Lyme disease. Results pending.<o:p> </o:p></p>

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">Right eyesight is still about the same @ 15% vision / 85% impaired. They think I should notice something possibly Saturday going in the right direction. Pain in the eye and head has subsided, even when looking in extreme directions.</p>

<p class="MsoPlainText" style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt">2nd & 3rd infusions are Thursday & Friday @ 7:30am. A graduated decreasing sequence of Prednisone starts Saturday to wean me off the high dose steroids. Damn, and I was so hoping to turn into Arnold overnight... </p>

Security: Public
Location: Other
Mood: Tired

Music:

Thu, 12 Jun 2008

10:34 PM

Tired & Irritable

Feeling Tired & Irritable. Head is stuffy and feels like sinus pain. Heartburn is increasingly bad. No change in vision. Eye pain is still non-existent including moving eye to extremes.

3rd and Final Infusion is tomorrow. Wondering when I will hear blood test results for everything. Appointment with Neurologist is not until the end of the 1st week in July.

Thanks for everyone's comments and support.

Dave

Security: Public

Location: Home

Mood: Uncomfortable

Music:

Fri, 13 Jun 2008

8:35 AM

3rd Infusion

So the 3rd and final infusion begins. Tagamet to start the juices flowing and reduce the heartburn and reaction. Solumedrol drip is in process. Feeling a little dizzy. They are paving / sealing the parking lot right behind the room where we drip. "All Construction is Good Construction"...especially when it's not concrete!

Vision is about the same, possibly getting better - can't tell for sure yet. Gonna relax and take it easy and try not to get Steroid Rage (yesterday was bad, but brought on by people being stupid at work). I mean come on - who doesn't put a subject in the subject line of an e-mail. If you want something done in 30 minutes and it is important, is it not important enough to fill in the Subject line, let alone call or go through the proper procedures of filling out a trouble ticket? Business professionals working for large corporations subcontracted by the State amaze me in their failure to plan and then expect others to pick up their slack. SLACKERS!!! I won't mention any names (Intergraph, Ajilon (Code stealers) and Behring Point.

Ok...off the soapbox. Breath Deep!

Dave

Security: Public

Location: Other

Mood: Hyper

Music:

Sat, 14 Jun 2008

10:00 AM

Saturday Update

Thanks for the kind words everyone and yes I am "roiding" out a bit, but trying my best not to take it out on my loved ones. Massive headaches & stomach / heartburn again today. Everything still tastes like metal including water. Getting ready for my Prednisone. Dr. said I should go get some Tylenol & OTC heartburn medicine. Vision is still about the same. I feel like the right eye is trying to come back into focus. No pain in the optic nerve and looking to extremities. Davey feels like crushing something - if I had the energy. Gonna try to take it easy this weekend. Ahhh....sleep.

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Lazy
Music:

6:25 PM

Saturday Afternoon

Stomach feels like it was put through a cross cut paper shredder (forward and then reverse). Head still pounding. Nicole is taking good care of me. Eyesight is still the same. Roid rage continues...

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Blah
Music:

Sun, 15 Jun 2008

8:18 PM

Sunday

Not much energy today. Stomach and head issues are somewhat controlled by OTC Prilosec and Tylenol. I can feel Vision changing for the better even though its still blurry and frustrating.

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Exhausted
Music:

Mon, 16 Jun 2008

11:33 PM

Monday a better day

Vision is up to about 70%. Side affects of the drugs are subsiding but still yucky. Made it through a full day of work. Not much excitement there. Blood tests still pending. Calling this week. Can't wait till July's appointment. Driving at night is not good.

Security: Public

Location: Home
Mood: Optimistic
Music:

Tue, 17 Jun 2008

7:25 AM

Cooler Weather

The morning is starting off great. Up at 5am (a rarity). Sun is shining, birds are singing. Vision is at about 85%.

Weening off the Roids...

Thank you Nurse Nicole!

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Rejuvenated
Music:

Wed, 18 Jun 2008

10:18 AM

Vision!

My vision has improved drastically over the last 24-36 hours. Things are getting back in focus with some slight blurring around the outsides. I'm halfway through the Roid-Off weening process. Thanks to everyone for their help and concern. Nicole and I made Peanutbutter chocolate chunk cookies last night, but they still taste like metal. My favorite taste combination must return!

No word yet on the plethora of blood tests.

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Thankful
Music:

Thu, 19 Jun 2008

9:44 AM

Thursday's Update

Not much to report. Feeling better. Vision not at 100% but feeling ever so close.

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Relieved
Music:

Mon, 23 Jun 2008

9:05 AM

Overdue Update

Weekend was good. Slight head congestion. Vision is still around 90 / 95%. Still some focus / blur problems. Steroids almost done. They are making me hyper, not much sleep needed. Sunday I think I got more done in 12 hours than all month. Drove Nicole nutty as I was 200% productive - cooking, cleaning, dishes, laundry, building new computer, work, Home Depot, etc.

When I lay down at night there has been some back pain, but it seems to be getting less and less. I have 2 steroid pills left to take over the next 4 days (1/2 every other day).

Hung out Saturday with good friends and enjoyed Bruster's Double Chocolate Chunk Ice Cream. It had good taste....wasn't peanut-butter, but I could taste the chocolate!

Security: Public

Location: Work

Mood: Hyper

Music:

Tue, 24 Jun 2008

10:16 PM

Tuesday Update

Today was very good. Right eye going in and out of focus, but better and almost 100%. Slight field of vision blur. Steroids down to 1.5 pills over the next 3 days. Had good energy....but then again, this past weekend I was a house of fire with chores.

No word from blood test results despite calls into the Dr.

This medical Journal may not be updated as frequently, but here's the link to my personal technology blog:

<http://blog.nepa2.com>

Security: Public

Location: Other

Mood: Determined

Music:

Fri, 27 Jun 2008

1:55 PM

Friday Update

Hey gang....things are going well. I have been very energetic these past couple of days. Getting lots of projects done. Eyesight is close to 100% - sliver of impairment in the field of vision. I meet with the Dr. on 7/8/2008. Called three times to get blood work test results. No return call.

Have a great weekend!

Dave

Security: Public

Location: Other

Mood: Thankful

Music:

Thu, 3 Jul 2008

12:11 AM

Happy 4th and Weekend

Everyone have a great 4th of July and long weekend.

Vision is still not 100%, but going to the Dr. on Tuesday to get blood test results and mention the vision.

Busy remodeling the upstairs...everything is all torn apart and carpet should be done today!!

D

Security: Public

Location: Work

Mood: Optimistic

Music:

Fri, 4 Jul 2008

1:26 AM

Independence Update

Today was not such a great day. I felt my vision got worse - like a washout. Things were just not as clear as the day before. Headache is back, but could be sinus / weather related.

Seeing the Dr. on Tuesday - I will be sure to let her know.

Dave

Security: Public

Location: Home

Mood: Sleepy

Music:

Sun, 6 Jul 2008

9:25 PM

Weekend Update

Vision slightly blurry still. Enjoyable weekend here. A couple of parties, good friends, volleyball, fireworks. Oh....I got engaged. Nicole said yes. I'll have pics up on a site shortly.

Renovation continues upstairs...today was busy moving furniture, clothes, etc. Muggy mowing outside but it's done.

Security: Public

Location: Home

Mood: Exhausted

Music:

Wed, 9 Jul 2008

11:31 PM

Dr. Visit Update

The Dr. visit went well except for the fact that they never performed several tests they were supposed to. This includes the Lyme Disease test which is what was primarily needed. First they said they lost it, then they said that the lab never received the instructions. The blood count, urine, sodium and a couple other tests all came back within

normal ranges.

So now I have to go give more blood to get the 4-6 other tests performed. I also received some information on a couple different types of treatments for MS. Copaxone - daily injections, Interferon (a couple different types) - injections ranging from weekly or 3 times a week. Of course this can't be determined until all the blood tests are complete.

Even though my eye is not 100% - the Dr. said that my vision could return / repair over the next 6 months and that further steroid treatment would not help. It could also stay the same. Keeping cool helps the repair process.

Overheating does not help the natural body chemical reactions to quicken the repair process. When she looked into my eyes she could see minimal damage and minimal "white" scaring areas of the optic nerve which was good. She also noticed minimal difference between the good eye and bad eye as far as reaction to light. This was drastically different when she 1st examined me. She suggested seeing the eye Dr. again as they would see more results with dialation than she could with her little hand / light tool. So overall I'm frustrated with their lack of communication and completeness as far as getting the blood tests done.

And the beat goes on....

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Frustrated
Music:

Fri, 11 Jul 2008

11:43 PM

Dr.'s and Blood and iPhone

<p>Took the script to my family Dr. this morning @ 7:30am. They photocopied and said they would call me after they verified that they can run all the tests needed. No call back. I may need to go elsewhere to expedite the bloodwork.</p>

<p>New iPhone was released today along with new software! I did not get one because of complicated AT&T contracts. New software is great though. It works on the old phone. Way to go Apple!</p>

Security: Public
Location: Home
Mood: Tired
Music:

Mon, 21 Jul 2008

11:29 AM

Update

Long time no update.

Things have been hectic but such is life. Still some vision impairment, but I'm going to get a 2nd opinion and go to NIH which Deb & Neal are in the process of arranging. (Thank you!)

My family Dr. never called back to let me know if they could run the tests...I'm going elsewhere or not going at all as they will run the same tests at NIH.

Hot weather greatly affects the repair process and vision. Trying to stay cool as I'm sure everyone else is during these 'Dog Days' of summer.

Security: Public
Location: Other
Mood: Hot
Music:

Wed, 30 Jul 2008

12:22 AM

NIH Scheduled

Spoke with Hellen G. & Melissa G. for Dr. McFarland @ NIH. (Joan was off today) I'm scheduled for a battery of tests on 8/21 including another MRI which will be 3 times as long as my 1st one which takes more detailed slices from multiple angles/views. They are going to check with the MRI techs to see if they can stuff my girth into a closed MRI. There is a possibility of a spinal MRI as well as a spinal tap. Blood work and medical exam will also be done. I'm gathering all of my current Dr. info as well as the MRI on CD and faxing / sending to them ahead of time. Vision fluctuates between 95 - 98%. Heat still has an impact on the vision. Keeping busy with home remodeling and the love of my life, Nicole.

Dave

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Okay
Music:

Wed, 20 Aug 2008

10:28 PM

In Bethesda

Nicole and I are in our Hotel room in Bethesda with NIH right down the street. An early morning start at security should be fun! Just got back from "The Tasty Diner" - we are out of our element...clearly. Well done French Fries are the best. Wonder how that will show up on my blood tests. We meet with Dr.'s starting at 7am and the last appointment is at 1pm. The drive down was uneventful...which is good. More details to follow.

Security: Public
Location: Other
Mood: Anxious
Music:

Sat, 23 Aug 2008

8:41 AM

Update soon

NIH went well...details to follow. Thank you Debbie & Neal!
The staff at NIH was so friendly and nice, they made the day go great.

Security: Public

Location: Work
Mood: Tired
Music:

Wed, 22 Sep 2010

3:05 PM

Journal Revisited

Time to start the Journal back up...

Change of drugs, treatments, etc.

Security: Public
Location: Work
Mood: Blah
Music:

Thu, 23 Sep 2010

12:38 AM

Blood Drawn

Blood drawn today for A1C test. Got another cold/infection. Can't wait for my Tai Chi DVD's to arrive.

Yesterday the FDA approved a new pill form drug to combat MS.

Security: Public
Location: Not Specified
Mood: Sick
Music:

Fri, 4 Jan 2019

6:18 PM

Time for a journal reboot

Wishing I would have kept up on this journal. Time to reboot and copy over to "www.itguruwithms.com"
(<http://www.itguruwithms.com>)

Security: Public
Location: Not Specified
Mood: Not Specified
Music: