

Matt's Update

As of today, April 24th, 2009, Matt is home and doing okay. Since the last update, here's what been going on with Matt.

On February 10th, Matt had another blood transfusion, it was his 8th transfusion.

On February 11th, Stanford wanted to replace Matt's feeding tube in his stomach, with the one in his nose. This was because of all the infections he's been getting. Matt did not want this, so we supported his decision and he kept the feeding tube in his stomach.

On February 16th, Matt was discharged from Stanford and him and Irene headed home. They put Matt on antibiotics for 8 more days.

On February 26th, Matt started his second part of his 6th round of chemo. Matt was only able to take only (4) of the (21) doses of oral chemo, before his counts dropped too low.

On March 3rd, Matt went in for his scheduled hearing test. The news was not good. Matt has lost his high pitch hearing and Stanford was worried about his permanent hearing lose. We all had to decide what to do next. We had a meeting with Stanford to discuss Matt's hearing lose, current treatment, side effects and long term quality of life. This was not an easy meeting and we had to make some tough decisions. We all decided it would best for Matt, to eliminate the type of chemo that was causing his hearing lose. We eliminated the Cisplatin chemo in round 7 and had to eliminate the entire round 8.

On March 19th, Matt went in for his second part of round 7.

On March 26th, Matt went in for his third part of round 7. His blood count was too low, so he received another blood transfusion, prior to chemo.

On March 28th, Matt had "Opening Day of Little League". Matt had two games and played a few innings in each game. Matt played first base, in both games. Matt had a couple of hits and hit the winning run in, in the first game.

On April 7th, Matt had one of the "Best Days of his life". See "Matt's Day with SWAT", on his home page.

On April 8th, we all headed to San Diego. Matt, Mike and Dad went to the Dodgers vs. Padres game on the 9th, while Hannah and Mom did damage in Diego (They shopped, till they dropped). We all had a great time. After the game, we drove to LA.

On April 10th, we all went and spent the day at Disneyland. The next day, we just hung around the pool and hotel and did nothing. This was also a great relaxing day. We all headed home on Sunday.

On April 16th, Matt got another infection and has been on antibiotics ever since.

On April 18th, Matt went on a Police “Ride Along”, with James Crabtree with the Angel Camp Police Department. Matt had a great time and wants to do this again. Thank James, for making Matt’s day, he really enjoyed it.

Tomorrow, we are all going to Relay for Life in Angels Camp. Matt is the guest speaker and we are looking forward to a positive day. See “Matt’s Relay for Life Speech”, on his home page.

This upcoming Wed, April 29th, Matt will go in for his last round of chemo. He will then have his oral chemo two weeks later and he will be done with chemo.

Matt is still not eating much regular food; he’s still having a hard time with this. He’s still feeding through the tube about 12-14 hours a day.

Matt is really looking forward to putting this all behind him, so he can get back to being a normal kid. Matt is looking forward to playing as much baseball as possible this season. He said he wants to start up Karate again, when he feels up to it.

Matt will have a 6-12 month recovery, before he really bounces back.

Thanks for checking in, and as always, thanks for all your love and support,

The McCullough Family