

Matt's Update

Sorry everyone, for not posting an update earlier. It's been hectic around the McCullough's. Some of you already know, but for those of you who don't, Matt had a relapse.

On September 15th, Matt went in for his scheduled MRI. We thought everything would be clear, but it wasn't. The MRI showed a spot, in his front right side of the brain. They couldn't tell what it was. Matt had a few test and brain scans, but they still couldn't tell, so they needed to go get it.

On September 28th, Matt had surgery, where they removed the spot. It was the same type of tumor, as before. This wasn't good news and what we feared the most. Matt now needed to go through radiation and chemo all over again.

This was a real big setback for all of us, we thought we were beating this.

On October 14th, Matt had a heavy dose of chemo, which he needed before he received cyber knife surgery.

On October 16th, Matt had "Cyber Knife Surgery". This was an intense radiation treatment, to the new tumor site. This was about a 2 hour procedure.

On October 19th, Matt started his three weeks of radiation and completed his program on November 6th,

During Matt's radiation and a few days after, Matt needed many transfusions. He has received 4 more platelet and 4 more red blood transfusions, along with shots and other things to try and keep his counts up and infection under control.

On November 17th, Matt went in for his first chemo treatment, after radiation. They injected chemo into his spine, through a lumbar puncture.

Matt will be going through about 8-10 months of chemo, consisting of 8 rounds. These rounds will include 8 of these lumbar puncture treatments, along with other types of chemo. Matt is put to sleep, for the lumbar punctures.

We have been blessed, by having Irene's sister staying with us, since October 16th. She is leaving after Thanksgiving and has been a great help, holding our household and Michael and Hannah together. She hopes to come back out, at the end of January, for another 6 weeks or so. She is going to try and come out a few more times after that, to help us get through this.

We have also been blessed, to have been introduced to a very special family in Atherton. We were introduced to Dick and Suzanne, who have opened their home to us, while we're down at Stanford. We will be staying at their house, as needed, through the next 8-10 months. We can't thank them enough, for their kindness.

If everything goes well, we should all be home for Thanksgiving. Matt's scheduled to go back in for chemo, on Monday 11/30 and will have treatment everyday that week.

A special thanks to Lamont and Sheila, from the Nicolas Colby Fund, for the tickets to the Warriors opening game. We had a great time!

A special thanks to Gary, for the tickets to the Stanford vs. Cal game yesterday. What a game!

We'll try and send updates more often.

**Love,
The McCullough's**