

Matt's Update

Sorry for the long delay, since the last update. I know a lot people look forward to seeing these updates, but it's been a little hectic lately. As of today, 7/24/08, Matt is doing ok. Since the last update, Matt had to have a platelet transfusion. His white blood count is also low, but they can't do anything about that. They have to wait until his body produces more white blood cells, before he can get more chemo.

A few weeks ago, when Matt was heading to Stanford to have his platelet transfusion, he got a bad bloody nose, which we couldn't control. This is pretty common, when the platelets are low. Irene called our local fire department and they came over and got the bleeding to stop (thanks to EPF).

Irene's Sister (Karen) and our Nephew (Jeremy) visited us for five weeks. What a help Karen was and it was great to see Jeremy. We really miss having them.

Matt, Jeremy and Greg went fishing up at Alpine lake, but didn't do too well. They only caught one fish, but had a great time. It was great to see Matt do something he really loves to do.

Irene's cousins Yvonne and Tom and their two boys Nathan and Garrett came by for a few days. All the kids played together and had a great time. We're looking forward to seeing them again. Matt ran around so much, he was sore for the next three days.

Matt has been getting massages from Raeann Rodr every week and Raeann's sister Stacy, when she's in town. Matt really enjoys these (who wouldn't?). Thanks to Raeann and Stacy.

Matt, Mike, Irene and Greg went to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk Tuesday night. It was great to get Matt out and about. Matt's been hanging out in Fremont, playing some poker with his brother Mike and the neighbor girl Sammi. Matt's been able to spend some time with his cousin Felecia as well, while in Fremont.

Matt was scheduled to have chemo yesterday, but when he got to Stanford, his white blood cell count was still too low. He goes back to Stanford tomorrow, to check his count again. If it's up to the required level, he will get his chemo next week sometime. If it's not, we will have to wait another week.

Matt is still not eating much regular food, he's still having a hard time with this. He will take a bit of something, once in a while, but that's it. His Dad is always trying to get him to eat, but Matt says nothing sounds good and things don't taste the same. He's still feeding through the tube (18) hours a day, which is giving him what he needs.

Matt's hair is growing back and he's really excited about that. He will however, lose it again, once he has his next round of chemo. Matt has maintained his weight, but hasn't gained anymore. He still weighs about 65 lbs.

Matt's home Nurse, Josie, continues to come by at least twice a week and Matt is real comfortable with her. Matt's "Blood Drive" went well. There were over 80 donors, thanks to all who donated.

We are planning to head to the A's game, this Saturday, for the "Brain Cancer Awareness Day". Matt will be able to meet others, who have battled through cancer and who are battling through it now. Hopefully he will feel well enough to attend.

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

The McCullough Family