

Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 23 Oct 2012 04:55

For those friends that don't know...Klaus was taken to the emergency room a week ago (Monday 15th) by ambulance from out of work...

Battery of tests were done and he was diagnosed with Renal Cell Carcinoma of the right Kidney.

The tumor had grown through the wall of the kidney and into the main vein and up toward the heart and into many lymph nodes around it. He has stage 3 cancer. Without surgery, possibly 8 months to live.

With surgery, he has a 25% chance to still be here in 5 years.

We were lucky enough to find a local urologist that would do the surgery.

They performed a 7 hour surgery yesterday and have gotten the tumor out also removed his right kidney, along with the infected nodes. He is in intensive care now...still has breathing tube in, but that may come out today. As of 5:45 this a.m when I spoke to the night nurse...he did not sleep well, but sometimes that happens after surgery. He is alert and writing messages to the nurse for his needs, and stable so far....

It is still touch and go for the next few days as with any major surgery....

His spirits are high and he gave me a thumbs up and indicated he loved me last night when I told him he did super through the surgery. He will probably be in ICU for a few more days..

I have heard there are friends "pissed" cause he did not let them know....

Please don't be angry...he was in shock as we all were,and it was his way of dealing...and we only found out on Thursday about the cancer and spent all day Friday having preadmission testing...there wasn't time to notify everyone

this was totally out of the blue...no warnings at all...they thought he might have a bleeding ulcer and when tests were run found the cancer instead...

I will try to update more here as soon as I can...

if you are friends on his Facebook page or on mine, I am updating there also

I thank you all for the well wishes and prayers

Pit Observer/ Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 11 Nov 2012 19:42

8:30 pm...

Just home from hospital...Klaus doing very well...All IV's and tubes out...they still have the line in his neck for the Dialysis if needed , but he's been off dialysis for 3 days and his kidney is doing well...they will probably remove that line tomorrow...

He walked from his room down to the nurses station about 50 feet one way...and back, with his walker and a nurse...this morning and tonight walked a bit futher than that.

He is now on a very restricted diet ...its a Renal diet...lots of things he can no longer have....also he will be on coumadin, when he comes home ...which they have started him on. We had to watch a video about this today.

Not much different than the Plavix he's taken for 7 years...just a lot more no no's and cautions

He will probably move to a rehab facility sometime this week...he may be evaluated tomorrow or Tuesday. Update tomorrow night

Pat

Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 12 Nov 2012 19:33

8pm...

Klaus walked the whole length of the hallway tonight and back...twice...with me and the walker

Where they took out the staples he is sore and leaking from both sides of the incision, they have it packed, but he is doing great...They took out the tubes today for the dialysis, so that won't be needed any longer...The kidney Dr was in to see him this morning and told him the one kidney is doing great...its not fully functioning, but doing very well

3 weeks today since surgery...His Dr. and I hugged tonight...the Dr also reinforced to klaus that the Cancer can come back at any time, and anywhere and spread quickly..he got what he could see on the xrays and scans...but ...

He also said depending on what the physical therapist says tomorrow...Klaus may be able to COME HOME!!! on Wednesday...

Klaus was really beat tonight when I left...but he's trying hard now to do what the Dr's say so he can come home...

Update again tomorrow night

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 13 Nov 2012 20:07

8 pm

Klaus will NOT be coming home yet...as much as he wants and I would like it he is not ready...he fell this morning , so I've been told, and he will not eat properly or not do the physical therapy or walk down the hall like they want him to.

He is complaining about every little thing, and making excuses as to why he "can't";.

His incision is not healing well and they have it packed and change the dressing and packing several times a day...tomorrow they will be using a foam sponge and taping it inside and then using a vacuum tube of some kind to suction out the "icky" parts and then seal it with some kind of glue...

He will probably be going to a nursing home /rehab center in a day or so, as soon as they find a bed for him. The physical therapy floor at the hospital said as of right now they will not take him either.

His surgeon thinks he can go home.....I told him NO, he would be home alone all day and he is NOT ready. I will be seeing the discharge planner again tomorrow night, and know more.

I am emotionally and mentally drained from being with him tonight...I have a headache the size of Alaska...and I'm off to bed

Update again tomorrow night

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 14 Nov 2012 18:58

7:30 pm...

Left Klaus at the hospital feeling tired. They put a vacuum in his stomach today to seal the incision, its kinda like a seal-a- meal....they put a foam sponge thingy inside and seal it over with a special tape and it has a hose hooked up to a vacuum...that pumps out the "icky" and let the cut heal from the inside out...

He says it feels much better and he has walked 3 times down the hall today and wil once more before bed...

We are still up in the air as to where they will be sending him....the hospital rehab itself can't take him , because our insurance won't cover it...so they have requested to send him to St. Camillus Nursing Rehab Center...they are reviewing his medical records and we should know tomorrow. His surgeon still thinks he can come home...

I don't think he's ready to be home yet...maybe another day or two or a week , when he can be more stable and can walk up and down stairs...

We'll see...

Update again tomorrow

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 15 Nov 2012 19:51

7:30

Klaus coming home tomorrow....I pick him up around 10 a.m.

He will be coming home with a portable vacuum (like I explained last night, to close the incision)

The people from St. Camillus home care will be here Saturday to evaluate him and see what kind of care he needs, and will set up a plan from there for physical therapy and to change the packing and bandages for the vacuum ...etc...

Thank you all from us both for the Love and support, and prayers along the way...we are a long way from over...

but headed in the right direction.

31 days....Whew!!!!....*big sigh*

I'll keep updating , but he should be able to post for himself in a few days

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Jeff Parker - 16 Nov 2012 06:52

With that portable vacuum, he can do the living room, and get caught up on the laundry! Glad to see things are going well!

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by sundayfunmoney - 16 Nov 2012 07:08

GREAT NEWS...but i am concerned as doc is.....if he going to be using the vacuum in his stomach for cleaning up around the house. is he going to have to schooch along the floor to make it work??? ha ha...if that dont work just have doc come over ..he is a pretty good sucker...lol.ha hahahah...great news on getting better....scott b...aka sundayfunmoney.....

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by tummy - 16 Nov 2012 07:44

Great news, things are getting better everyday.

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 16 Nov 2012 07:49

Jeff and Scott...You guys are tooo funny....I've been saving these messages for klaus to read when he comes home...but he may end up busting a gut (which is the purpose of the vacuum to close) and set us back a few days again...

But they say laughter is the best medicine...

Thank you all for the support...I'm off to go collect him from the hospital right now...

I'll update later

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Ourmerc - 17 Nov 2012 06:01

Happy Thanksgiving Klaus and Pat and all of our racing families!! Truley this is a reason to give thanks !! One day at a time is all we have !! Enjoy it !!

Bob Meader 3131

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 18 Nov 2012 07:19

Klaus and I hope everyone had a Great time at the Banquet last night, sorry we couldn't make it....

8 a.m.

We had a fun night last night, the alarm went off on the vacuum pump hooked to Klaus just before 1 a.m., the message said the machine was blocked and the therapy had stopped working. I could not find what was wrong so I changed the cannister part of the pump, and still the alarm was going off. I ended up calling the nurse for home care and over the phone we could not figure it out, and at that point I could hear air hissing out of the tube that goes into his stomach....so she came to the house about 1:45 a.m.

She ended up pulling the whole packing out and re-doing the whole thing, and re-setting the pump...she left about 2:15 and Klaus was up and down a couple of other times in the night for the bathroom, and each time I get up to help. He has to carry the pump in a little fanny pack and drape the hoses around his neck so he won't fall over them and we have to un-plug the unit , then reverse it all when he gets back to bed. Hopefully not too long...maybe another week or so...I saw the incision last night when the nurse re-did it and it looks to be healing up really well in a couple of the spots...just one larger spot that may take a while.

He's lost about 40 lbs before his surgery and 35 lbs since his surgery...but he seems to be doing a bit better each day, and his appetite is picking up and he seems to be getting a little stronger. He goes back to his family Dr. on Tuesday for a follow up visit, and back to the surgeon in a 2 or 3 weeks

And we'll know more then...

til next update

Pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by DoozCoop - 18 Nov 2012 10:27

Sounds like he's doing a lot better overall - glad to hear he's back home! I'm surprised you didn't say you caught him trying to go down into the garage to work on his cars! Make him sit and behave Pat!

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by The Cheater Sleeper - 18 Nov 2012 18:22

Pat and Klaus,

So very glad to hear Klaus is home, hope that machine behaves itself.....you too Klaus!! I wish you both a great Thanksgiving, as I do everyone in our ESTA "family". Eat 2 pieces of pie on Thanksgiving Klaus!

Kim Rossiter

Street \$\$ racer

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 21 Nov 2012 16:11

5pm....

Klaus had a very tiring day today....

The home care nurse was here to change his vacuum pump and then the physical therapist was here

(Klaus got outside and walked partway down and back up the front steps)

Then I had to take him to his primary Dr. for a followup visit (He walked the whole way without his walker)

He is pale and, still anemic according to his Dr. but the rest of his vital signs were ok.

We go the first week of Dec. for lab work and follow up with his surgeon to see what happens next...

In the mean time...home nurse is here M-W-F and physical therapist 2 or 3 x's a week

He is exhausted and napping at the moment.

More updates later

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!!!

Klaus & pat

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Re: Klaus..Dieroff

Posted by Pit Observer - 25 Nov 2012 08:06

Sunday 11/25..... A.M...

Klaus doing ok, still very tired and no energy, still anemic.

He is losing between 1 and 2 lbs per day....since his surgery(Oct 22nd) he has lost 50 Lbs.

The nurse is here from St Camillus home care every other day to change the vacuum seal, and his incision is healing up and looking better, but still a way to go...the physical therapist is here 2 to 3 times a week, but he is so exhausted after thier sessions all he does is nap. This week no doctors, but next week he goes for blood work and then another day sees his surgeon for post op check up. We'll know more then, what more is happening.

He can have visitors here at home...if anyone wants to come over...just call first to be sure he isn't in the middle of the nurse or therapy...

Til next update...

Pat

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