Hep C Patient John Conquers Hepatitis C, Cirrhosis, Liver Cancer, and Liver Transplant: Part 1

September 12, 2018 By Connie M. Welch

Connie: John, Thank you for being with us this week and sharing your awesome story of how you've come through this battle with liver disease. I know your story will bring great hope to others.

Connie: What year did your doctor tell you that you needed a liver transplant?

John M.: It was in 2014.

Connie: What tests were done to determine what stage you were in?

John M.: I had multiple blood work.

Connie: What stage and condition did you have prior to liver transplant?

John M.: I had completed Hepatitis C treatment using Harvoni in November 2014 which cured the Hep C but I still had chronic stage 4 cirrhosis.

Connie: Did you develop cancer, tumors/cysts? If so, did you do surgery, treatment or any procedures?

John M.: Yes, cancer was detected during one of the many MRI's and CAT scan's. I went under Therasphere radiation. The procedure was a lot like an angiogram, with the exception that instead of a stint, they placed a miniature vial of radioactive glass beads close to the tumors. I had to undergo this procedure three times, but it bought me enough time to line me up for a liver transplant.

Connie: What was your MELD score prior to transplant? What state in the U.S. do you live?

John M.: My MELD score was 38. This pushed me to the top of the lists in my region, which is in Utah.

Connie: How long did you have to wait for your transplant from the time you were put on the transplant list?

John M.: I was on the transplant list for 2 years.

Connie: When did you receive your liver transplant?

John M.: It was November 20th, 2017.

Connie: What was your transplant process like?

John M.: It was touch and go. I had been admitted to the hospital with very damaged esophageal varcies which was severely compromised. I was expelling copious amounts of blood. The doctor was able to band ten of the veins and I was allowed to go home for about 36 hours when it started all over again. I was readmitted on the 4th of November and spent the next 16 days in I.C.U. waiting for a liver, which I received on Nov 20th.

Thank you John. You are indeed a brave and courageous warrior. We look forward to hearing the rest of your story about your recovery and progress in post liver transplant.

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