



NEWS & UPDATES

April 1, 2011

There have been some new developments regarding Rick's Multiple Myeloma. During a routine follow up PET/CT scan on 3/30 we found that there were multiple new lesions in his bones. While this was unexpected, we are encouraged by the fact that this third relapse was found early. Dr Richardson at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, believes that the relapse occurred as a result of temporarily stopping the chemotherapy this winter when Rick broke his collarbone (snowmobile accident). He does not think that the cancer has become resistant to the current chemotherapy but that holding therapy for six weeks to allow the bone to heal also allowed the cancer to escape and reestablish in Rick's bones.

Rick and I went to see Dr Richardson on April 1 and we have a new intensified chemotherapy regimen arranged that will begin immediately. The lesions in Rick's bones are too small to be seen on CT scan or regular X-rays. Despite this, we did acquire some biopsy tissue that the researchers at Dana Farber will grow in the lab. If they can get some of Rick's tumor cells to grow, they can see which drugs are more likely to kill them.

Recent research has discovered several new drugs that are promising for treatment of Multiple Myeloma. We expect that if the current therapy is not effective, Dr Richardson will be able to enroll Rick in a study using one of these new medications.

- Kathleen Martin, MD