

Our "Wish Wyatt a Quick Recovery" Blog

May 22, '08 10:25 PM
for everyone



I could probably have gone the rest of my life without having to write a blog like this and hopefully, things will be ok, but this site is a chronicle of our lives and sometimes, the bad has to come with the good. But this is a good place to keep everyone updated as we've already had an outpouring of concern and we appreciate all the support and well wishes from family and friends.

For those who are unaware, our little dude Wyatt was taken to the emergency room this morning with some sort of nasty swelling and skin rash all over his body. For the past couple of weeks, he's been in and out of the doctor's office due to an ear infection and what we thought was some sort of viral infection. But with the outbreak of the rash, a string of all-night screaming sessions and his inability to take an antibiotic oral application (he threw it up instantly), we felt it was time to get him to the hospital ASAP.

Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of information regarding what is wrong. He's been poked, prodded and what feels like tortured all day long and we can only hope that tonight he sleeps a little better and tomorrow we start to hear some positive news.

In the meantime, I will post new blogs with updates as I hear them and we welcome any and all messages you'd like to leave for Wyatt in the comments section.

--Corey

Wyatt's Recovery

May 23, '08 9:23 AM
for everyone

Hi all, thanks for the continued well wishes and support, we really appreciate it! In the meantime, there's not much to report just yet. They're still checking for different types of viruses including hepatitis (which, according to our doctors, they refer to any virus that attacks the liver, so it's not necessarily the big headline grabbing scary versions we hear about). They've also dispatched a dermatologist regarding the rash which is just flat out heartbreaking to see on my "Handsome Number Two".

Unfortunately, he will definitely not be allowed to go home today, and we're not sure if he will tomorrow either, we'll have to see how his tests come back.

As always, I will post updates as I get news.

--Corey

PS I've had a few inquiries regarding the hospital, we're at Rady Childrens Hospital in San Diego. <http://www.chsd.org/> (<http://www.chsd.org/body.cfm?id=9> for maps and directions).

The Latest on Wyatt

May 23, '08 12:51 PM
for everyone



Hello everyone! So Parker and I arrived at the hospital just in time to hear the latest info regarding Wyatt. I'm afraid it's a bit of a mixed bag. The good news is that he looks a lot better from a demeanor standpoint. He is acting a bit more like the wonderful little guy that has stolen our hearts. He's more playful, smiley and alert. His rash is still pretty awful looking, but I think it's getting slightly better.

So now for the tougher news. There is definitely a virus that is attacking his liver. We asked on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best, where was it at and the doctor said it was about a 4. Worst case scenario he said, we're looking at a liver transplant and obviously, that's pretty scary to hear. There is some silver-lining though and even though his liver is under seige, it may be fighting pretty good. They believe that it has improved since yesterday. So as long as he continues in this direction, we may be a-ok, but we won't really know until later tonight after our next round of lab results (they're taking new sets of labs several times a day).

So that's the update for now, we will definitely be in the hospital all weekend long but hopefully we'll have much more positive news later tonight.

--Corey

PS How weird is this, as soon as I sat down in the room... WYATT EARP started on Bravo.

Wyatt Fights Back

May 23, '08 7:13 PM
for everyone



Finally, some positive news! After a noticeably better day from a demeanor standpoint, Wyatt received another round of blood test work this afternoon and we just got results... improvement! While I can't shake some of the worry I feel for that little guy (not until we're packing him up to go home), what a major turnaround that was when earlier today, I walked into the hospital room just in time to hear the doctor talking about a liver transplant if we don't see improvement! Holy crap did my heart sink into my stomach when I heard that!

But it looks like we got him into the hospital just in time (no thanks to our primary care physician btw who blew us off for a week on this issue) and he continues to fight the virus that has been attacking his liver.

I can't thank everyone enough for all the comments, e-mails, text messages and phone calls. This has been a pretty therapeutic way for us to deal with what has been quite a scary set of circumstances and I'm happy that we can hopefully close this chapter of blogs and move on to some that are slightly more fun!

As always, check back often for any updates and we welcome all thoughts and prayers that Wyatt continues to fight and recovers without any further issues or setbacks.

--Corey

Setback for Wyatt

May 24, '08 7:57 AM
for everyone

I'm sad to report that we've suffered a setback. Late last night, Wyatt had an adverse reaction to something that they gave him (not sure what, the story of this experience... no one knows anything) and is once again swollen and red. He can't shut his mouth or latch on to eat nor can he sleep (which means Trisha and her sister Pam didn't get any sleep either).

So once again there's something wrong, no one knows what it is and we're waiting to hear back on more info and plans for further testing.

As always, I will continue to post updates on this page. Hopefully I can report better news later today.

--Corey

A Note from Mom

May 24, '08 12:32 PM
for everyone

What a roller coaster....Corey has come to the hospital to relieve Pam....Pam and Paul are at our house with Parker and might take him to Legoland. I'm sitting here submitting a school assignment that is due today for my last forensic's class. I thought I'd jump on and update everyone. While I am generally a more gifted writer, I'm running on approx. 6-8 hours of sleep in a 72 hour period...so it's just the facts mostly. We still don't have an answer on what caused Wyatt's swelling last night, but shortly after a combo of Motrin, vic-something antibiotic for his positive Cdiff issue, and a round of benedrill, his lips throat and neck started to swell. It was so bad at one point that he couldn't even close his mouth or try to eat. After panicking all night (this happened at 1am), and the staff not being overly concerned, they waited until today to INSIST that we move to the Intermediate care unit (a step higher than where we were in the Med/Surg). This insisting meant that we have lost our bed (our other room had a full size bed which Wyatt was sleeping on my chest) and another pull out bed for our guest helper. Now we have a "required" crib which Wyatt will sleep in probably Zero, and 1 pull out bed. So we can't have a guest helper sleep over. Actually they said someone could sleep over, it would just have to be in the comfortable office type chair that we have here. Or down in the family room. They won't let him eat again until the swelling goes down so he is back to fluids only. We have a shared room (which is empty now), but you know that story.

The good news, Wyatt's blood work shows continued improvement on his liver. So that is headed in the right direction still. More various virus labs have come back negative which is good (they have ruled out several things, including HepA which they originally suspected), but they are indicating that there is a chance we might not actually ever know what virus he had and that it may just get better on it's own.

More when we know....for now, hope for no more allergic reactions!

Trisha

Puffy Wyatt in Good Spirits

May 24, '08 1:34 PM
for everyone

I think I would've gone crazy if it weren't for this outlet, so thanks to all for listening!

Today when I made it into the hospital as Trisha said in her last post, I found Wyatt in pretty good spirits actually. His lips and neck are totally swollen and it's so gut-wrenching to see him that way (I took a picture, but I think it's too disturbing to post here), but it's so amazing to see the light in his eyes when I play and smile at him. He was able to give me several smiles, a few gigles and even his patented tongue sticking out. He did some standing on his legs, some playing with various objects such as keys and toys, and then he laid down on my chest where I told him a couple of stories (A Bugs Life then Finding Nemo) and he nodded off to sleep on my chest. We both got in a few much needed winks.

As Trisha stated in her previous post, we're not totally sure what's wrong with him, or what caused the reaction, but his liver is showing improvement and hopefully that will continue.

More updates to come...

--Corey

Wyatt Rests Up

May 24, '08 6:23 PM
for everyone

Hi everyone, just a quick update! Wyatt's swelling has definitely retreated although his lips continue to be puffy and he still has a significant rash. We have seen some positive signs including him eating well, sleeping soundly and some definite desire to play and explore objects while awake (with a few smiles and vocal sound offs to boot).

So the big test will be tonight. If he can make it through the night with no major issues, I believe

that we will see big improvements tomorrow.

As always, more to follow!

--Corey

Wyatt Gets Some Rest

May 25, '08 9:19 AM
for everyone



So things look like they're definitely improving and we're finally feeling a little less worry as time goes on! He looks better (although that rash sure is scary looking still) but the real improvement was in his sleeping last night. Other than getting poked and prodded by a bunch of doofus nurses who thought they could get an IV in him after we told him it wouldn't work (they sent their crack IV team in yesterday afternoon, these people wear special uniforms and they're only purpose is to get IV's in... they couldn't do it), he slept really well (as did mom and dad).

He's taking medicine orally now since we can't get an IV and while he hates it, it's better for us than seeing them stick needles in him all the time.

Finally, we think we have an idea for what happened to him. Essentially, he reacted to an antibiotic that he was taking for an ear infection a few weeks ago. The reaction is called "DRESS Syndrome" and if you'd like to read up on it, you can at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11433569>.

We are happy that we can move out of the critical care center and back into a standard hospital room after they have a dermatologist look at him this morning.

Anyway, that's it for now!

--Corey

Wyatt is Back!

May 25, '08 1:14 PM
for everyone



Other than his rash which is still kinda icky and bothers him every now and again (probably will continue for another week or two), everything is looking real good with Wyatt. I believe that this ordeal is nearly over and we're very excited to be going home soon (possibly tomorrow if they can get his labs today and get positive results on his liver functions).

He's off his monitors, he's playing, goofing around and was even able to go for a walk around the care unit area (in my arms of course). He promptly smiled at all the nurses and melted their hearts! He's definitely back to his old self, he throws toys on the ground the instant he gets them, he tries to grab my glasses off my face and smiles up a storm with a good game of peek-a-boo.

So today we will move out of the critical care unit and back downstairs into a more comfy private room and hopefully we'll be heading home tomorrow! Of course, we'll let you know if that's the case.

--Corey

PS As I was posting, a lab technician came in and was successfully able to retrieve blood from a vein... finally! We watched him get stuck with 5 needles during the course of the day and night without any success. This is the lab work that if positive tomorrow, will allow us to go home [crosses fingers].

[Wyatt and Parker Good, But Hospital Stay Continues](#)

May 26, '08 10:58 AM
for everyone



Darn! Can't pull the trigger on getting released just yet! Wyatt's looking pretty good, he's in great spirits and his rash is even subsiding, but there was some sort of abnormality on his latest round of blood work. The doctor says that it could even be some sort of false reading since everything else looks so good and considering how Wyatt's doing at this point. But regardless, they will have to continue to monitor the situation which means another day or two in the hospital.

I'm going to take Parker to see his momma and brother today and then we'll head out to Sea World (can you tell from the pic which part of the plan has him most excited... me neither) to try and give him a good day considering he is going on 5 days without having his mom at home. The little guy has been a real champ and has been handling all this really well... especially considering he's been spoiled rotten by all his wonderful Aunts and grand-parents (ok, dad has contributed a bit too!).

So it seems like we're so darn close, but the promise land is still waiting...

--Corey

Short Hospital Update

May 26, '08 5:32 PM
for everyone



So we are still here, getting to know the entire staff here at Rady Children's! From what I understand (although sometimes I feel like we hear a slightly different tune from every doctor who visits our room), here is the latest:

Visually Wyatt looks sooooo much better. His rash is fading, although when he gets warm or mad, it fires back up a bit.

The blood work they took this morning came back with the same increasing (good) results for his liver. Still not perfect, but getting better.

Although there were two areas in his blood work that are still of a bit of concern. One is the AST levels which I guess have been a concern the whole time, but this is the first I heard specifically. The other area is a reading on his blood work that would indicate an autoimmune attack. I'm not sure of the exact details on this, but this is the reason they didn't want to release us today. Our doctor said this reading might have been a fluke, they are retesting in the morning.

Overall, here are the "guesses" on what we are & were dealing with....they aren't sure if it's one or all of the following things:

He had a severe allergic reaction to Amoxicillon (from his ear infection on May 5th) and went downhill from there.

Because of the Amoxicillon, he got a Cdiff infection (where the good bacteria in your system is attacked by the antibiotics).

He may have a separate viral infection going on.

He could have had separate allergic reactions to other drugs (motrin, vanko) which he was given here at the hospital.

They have told us that there is a good chance that everything will clear up and we may never know the full truth. But regardless we have a list of drugs this boy can't take. Anyhow, we're just wishing for more good blood work. Overall though, he looks good and is acting MUCH more like himself so from the outside we look like we're just taking a nice little vacation and eating the delicious hospital food. If they had margaritas, I'd be in good shape.

Trisha

Another Quick Update on Wyatt

May 27, '08 1:53 PM
for everyone

I am about to head into the hospital to see him but over the phone I could hear him squealing and playing so he definitely sounds like he's in great spirits.

Unfortunately, our stay at the hospital will continue though. It sounds like they aren't completely happy with Wyatt's liver and its recovery. It's just not there yet. They may have to do a biopsy (which is a minor surgery to remove a portion and test it) which, if that happens, means we won't be leaving the hospital until at least Friday.

The biopsy isn't for sure yet though so I'll let you all know when we hear.

--Corey

The Joy of Hospital Stays

May 27, '08 8:59 PM
for everyone

I am finally moved back into a private room! After our stint up in the critical care floor, they moved us down to a "potential" shared room. It was just us, with a promise from my day nurse that they wouldn't put anyone else in with us. Well, promises fade along with that 7a-7p shift and sure enough, last night at 11pm my evening nurse announced that I was getting a roommate. Wyatt had just drifted off to sleep and I think my blood pressure must have gone through the roof. So after the door opened about 25 times between 11pm and 3am from the staff admitting this other family and getting them settled, Wyatt woke up screaming of course....

In the middle of all this fun, I overhear that the child has the rotovirus (a lovely extremely contagious stomach flu). And here we are bunking up.

Needless to say, I am livid. I think every nurse and doctor knows me by now.

But after several false promises and hopes, they finally came through with my own private room. So despite the continuing concerns with Wyatt and his liver and underlying mystery cause, we are comfortable.

Parker came to visit again today and it was so wonderful to see him. He is such a perfect little guy. It breaks my heart everytime he has to leave because it's so hard on him. I just want to scoop him up and hold him forever, but that just makes it worse for him. I can't wait til I can be back home where he drives me koo koo with his great toddler schnanigans. Perspective is a good thing sometimes.

Trisha

Wyatt's Waiting Game

May 28, '08 8:49 AM
for everyone



Yes, the waiting game has arrived... to biopsy or not to biopsy? They were considering doing a biopsy on his liver because they simply do not know 100% what happened to Wyatt and they're trying to get a better idea. But they are also concerned that a biopsy could inflame the liver further so they are hesitant to rush into that decision. So for now, they continue to take blood and run labs on him to monitor his liver functions.

To look at him, you wouldn't even know he's a sickly! He's chipper, playful and as happy as I've seen him in weeks! The rash is almost completely faded (just a slight hint remains), he's eating and sleeping like a champ and overall, he is doing fantastic.

Parker is doing good too. When we leave the hospital he gets down ("Hey dada... I sad."), but nothing a little ice cream or a fun game won't cure. Parker and I have had a lot of time together to bond and I can truly say that our time together has been extremely precious and has become somewhat of a silver-lining in this craziness.

Finally, we're still waiting on word regarding our release from the hospital. Could be anytime between tomorrow and the weekend. I'd be very surprised if it went on much longer given how good Wyatt is doing. At this point, it's all precautionary stuff.

More to come...

--Corey

How Parker is Holding Up

May 28, '08 9:30 PM
for everyone



Hi all,

I do have an update on Wyatt's progress and I'll get to that in a minute, but I thought I would share a little bit about how Parker is doing with all of this craziness! I've talked about him being spoiled by myself and other family and he definitely is living it up with trips to Legoland, Sea World, the park and more.

But the other side of it is this, he struggles with this as well and it affects him both positively and negatively. For the most part, he's a happy go-lucky kid most of the time and I can't help but brag a little at how well he's handling all of this! While Trisha and I have had our moments of frustration, stress, and utter despair, Parker has been so brave, and even at his saddest moments, has held up like a champ. It was heartbreaking to have to try and explain to him why we had to leave the hospital and why his momma and "Pie Man" can't come home with us. He was definitely saddened several times this past week as we left the hospital from seeing them, but tonight, he finally was able to say good-bye without any really sad feelings. I think he has finally found security in the fact that his mom and brother are safe and close and he will see them the next day. I also believe that he's enjoying our time together and we certainly have bonded through this experience.



As for Wyatt, he is going in for the biopsy tomorrow and hopefully, the results will help us get some much needed answers to all this. The biopsy itself isn't quite as scary as I originally expected. It's essentially a glorified shot where they stick a long needle into his liver to quickly pull out a piece of tissue. That's pretty much it... no pain (Wyatt will be sedated), no cutting, no scaring. It should take about 5 minutes or so.

The results will take at least 24 hours so we probably won't have a ton of answers right away, but hopefully by Friday we will get some info and hopefully, see a potential release for this weekend (I'll believe that when it happens though at this point!).

So that's the scoop, when we know more, so will you! ;-)

--Corey

Wyatt's Biopsy Complete!

May 29, '08 11:36 AM
for everyone



We had a difficult morning but I'm happy to report that the biopsy went well and Wyatt is back in mom's arms and eating like vaccum! It was quite tough having to watch Trisha hold him down while the doctor put the gas mask on him... his squeals and squirms were just heartbreaking.

But the procedure went really quick (under 10 minutes) and then it took about an hour for him to come to and get moved into his room.

So now we wait to hear what the results are and that should take about 24 hours or so. Hopefully, the preliminary results will shed some light on what has happened to our brave little guy.

--Corey

More Fun for Wyatt (Not Really)

May 29, '08 7:00 PM
for everyone



So the poor guy had a slight negative reaction to the biopsy today and they had to administer a blood transfusion. Essentially, his red blood cells and plateletes were borderline low and rather than take any chances, they decided to err on the side of caution. But needless to say, between the biopsy and the news of the transfusion, it's definitely been a difficult day.

But the good news is that he seems to be in good spirits even though he's hooked up to an IV and a bunch of wires again (we thought this part was over, grrrrr). Mom is feeling better after a very rough morning, especially because he's doing well enough to not have to move us back up to the critical care wing (which they thought we were going to have to do).

That's it for now, they're going to keep a good eye on him and make sure he responds well to the transfusion.

--Corey

Wyatt Doing Good

May 30, '08 11:33 AM
for everyone



Hi everyone,

Our little dude is doing great and is feeling playful. He's off the wires and IV again so that's a big headache that's over with, at least for now! Once again, it seems like there's going to be light at the end of this tunnel but we're still awaiting biopsy results so who knows what that's going to tell us. Hopefully, it tells us there was a viral issue and not an autoimmune issue and allows us to plan to head home this weekend.

We expect our results shortly and will post the update when we get a chance sometime today. In the meantime, thanks to everyone for the well wishes, thoughts and prayers. Have a great weekend!

--Corey

Wyatt Shocker... We're Home (Woo-hoo!)

May 30, '08 5:21 PM
for everyone



Yes, you read that right folks, the family is safe and sound at home! We received some positive results from the biopsy... most likely, the problem was viral and not an auto-immune issue (although they still refuse to rule that out completely) and Wyatt's liver has not sustained any significant damage which is great.

It was a strange day because with the way things had been going (a step forward, a step back) we were definitely expecting that IF we were released, we wouldn't be released until Saturday if not Sunday. But we were prepared to hear some weird results from the biopsy and who knew how long we would have to stay?

But alas, that wasn't the case. The doctor released them and I wasn't even around to pick them up because of a prior obligation (I had promised a certain 3 year old I'd take him to the beach to learn to surf like Cody Maverick the penguin in "Surf's Up"). So I got the phone call and raced over from the beach to pick them up!

Anyway, we still have some maintenance and monitoring to do with Wyatt. They feel it was a viral infection but they have no idea what kind of virus it was and his liver isn't 100% just yet. So we'll see. But in the meantime, the twice a day hospital updates are over and I'll be back to work on Monday.

I can't thank everyone enough for all the caring and support. It truly is a blessing how many loving friends and family members we have and this saga has definitely illustrated this. We truly appreciate all the offers for help, prayers, thoughts, hope and advice that everyone provided us. It also was wonderful to have this outlet knowing that people were on the other end experiencing this with us.

Love,

Corey (and Trisha, Parker, Wyatt, Buffy and Barney)

Thank you to Everyone!

May 30, '08 9:43 PM
for everyone

Well yes, pieman and I got to come home today! What wonderful news. I wanted to thank everyone for all your notes. It was nice to have them pop into my blackberry as I sit in the hospital...for 8 days!!! Wow. When I drive to the ER, I had a slight feeling that they might admit us, but I was thinking just a little overnight thing. So, needless to say, I've been on quite an emotional ride.

While we did get released today, we still have probably a month of so of lab work and medications. Since Wyatt's liver is still in so-so shape according to the lab results, they are having him take oral Vitamin K and some other supplement that stimulates the liver and then we have to show up for lab draws to check the progress. Like Corey said, they are pretty sure it's a viral thing which attacked his liver and if this is the case, then his liver will gradually heal itself. The rash, swollen lips and throat, and diarrhea were all just a separate little gift (most likely brought on by the amoxicillin given on May 5th for that ear infection). It sounds odd, but we are actually very very lucky that he had this reaction to that antibiotic because if he didn't we wouldn't have know that his liver was being attacked. So really that allergic reaction saved that little man.

Overall the hospital staff was great, but there is nothing fun about staying in a hospital. I have so much sympathy for those who have it much worse. I am very happy to be home with my family. It makes me so happy to hear Parker spout out his latest phrase to his baby brother "hello you little lazy bum"!

Wyatt Re-Admitted

Jun 2, '08 12:15 PM
for everyone

I'm sorry to report that Wyatt had to be re-admitted to the hospital today. Essentially, the doctor's did not feel comfortable with the lab results they took today and as a precaution, they've decided to admit him back into the hospital to monitor his progress. They are simply concerned that since he hasn't improved as greatly as they liked, if he did take a turn for the worse, they wouldn't be able to respond quickly enough while he's at home.

We have no idea how long we'll be there and certainly, with a 3 year old who doesn't fully understand what's going on, this is not the best news.

On the bright side, we have a wonderful support system and already have grandparents, aunts and uncles lined up to help watch Parker this week while I continue to work (which Trisha and I both feel is important that I do). The other bright side is that this is mostly a precautionary measure and is not due to any significant setback, but I can't help but feel a bit paranoid that something more difficult is around the corner. But we're trying to stay strong and positive and we're going to make it through this thanks to everyone's love, thoughts and prayers.

As always, we'll keep you updated...

Lethargic Wyatt

Jun 2, '08 10:30 PM
for everyone



It's hard to know if these doctors are being on the ball or if they over-reacted in admitting Wyatt today. According to the latest lab results, almost all of his numbers are fairly close to normal with just small deviations in a couple of areas (not sure what exactly those ones are off the top of my head). So what exactly happened?

Well, they were concerned about Wyatt being lethargic as well as not showing a stronger improvement in his lab results after this morning's blood draw. So they immediately admitted him to the hospital to ensure that if he took a turn for the worse, they could administer treatment quickly. I can't fault the doctors for that and I appreciate the fact that they are doing everything they can to find out what is going on with him and are doing their best to treat it.

But I still can't help but feel they may have been a little quick on the draw at either releasing us in the first place, or re-admitting us. Here are some of my own thoughts:

1. I am not 100% convinced he's experiencing as much lethargy as they think. Granted, he's been sleepy and relaxed during the day the past 2 days, but couldn't that also be from having a totally screwed up sleeping schedule and an 8 day traumatic hospital experience? I can tell you this, the times he's awake he's usually chipper, playful, talkative and overall, he seems like a normal kid... even during the 3am play session I had with him last night!
2. The numbers are barely off from last Friday when they released us. And I'm no medically trained professional, but is that so surprising? They are comparing his blood work to labs that were drawn within a few hours after a blood transfusion! And again, the numbers are so close (like 1.4 instead of a 1.3 for one of the readings, I forget the name of it).
3. The biopsy results were normal, ultrasounds normal, vital signs all strong, blood sugar normal, etc. etc. Everything else seems to be normal.

4. The little guy is happy as can be. Again, not medically trained, but there is a significant difference in his demeanor compared to even the weeks leading up to going to the emergency room. I know my son, he's feeling good, eating good, even going to the bathroom good (which has actually been a problem with him since he was two months, he could only poop with help from suppositories).

Anyway, like I said, I appreciate what the doctors are doing and in the overall scheme of things, it's probably better to be safe than sorry. But I definitely hope this is simply a case of them being overly cautious and we'll have them released sooner rather than later.

Of course, I will certainly alert you to whether or not that is the case when we find out some additional results tomorrow. This is one time where I really, really want to be right but am going to have to prepare for being wrong!

--Corey

PS Happy 9th month today Mr Pie Man, we hope you come home soon (again)!

Wyatt on Steroids

Jun 3, '08 3:43 PM
for everyone



I hate being wrong. I thought the Doctors may have been overly cautious on re-admitting him, but it looks like there still is a flaw with Wyatt's liver. It's just not improving like it should and they now believe that it's very possible that this isn't a viral issue at all but an auto-immune issue (essentially, his immune system sees his liver as a foreign entity and is fighting it).

This poses a mixed set of emotions for us because he will have to take steroids to correct the issue (if that is indeed what the issue is) and they are starting him on that today. If indeed he shows improvement after a 48 hour time lapse, then the good news is we know what the problem is (finally). The negative side is two-fold, one, he is almost guaranteed to remain at the hospital at least until Friday if not longer and two, if the steroid doesn't work, then it means we still don't have answers and even worse, that it could be viral which means the virus could come back to strength since steroids suppress the immune system.

So unfortunately, the roller coaster continues but hopefully, we are a little bit closer to finding a true diagnosis. Stay tuned for further info and an FAQ that I'm putting together...

--Corey

Wyatt's Weird Preliminary Results

Jun 4, '08 9:49 PM
for everyone



I was sitting on the bed playing with my hyper little dude in the hospital, a product of ragin' roid's no doubt, when the doctor came in and gave me a run down of his preliminary results. As the old saying goes, "the plot thickens". Now granted, the true results that will be much more telling will be the ones we get tomorrow, these are just preliminary and it's too early to jump to conclusions... but strange nonetheless.

The numbers that they were mostly concerned about improved which they're happy about however, the enzyme numbers that tell whether the liver is inflamed unfortunately got a little worse. They were not expecting that and this has cast some doubt on the idea that this is an auto-immune issue.

But they will wait until tomorrow's results to make any solid determinations and then decide where to go from there. Until then, the wait continues...

--Corey

Wyatt's Anti-Climactic Results

Jun 5, '08 11:25 PM
for everyone



I'm telling you, we need to call in House M.D. cuz this chit is weird! We were told that today would be the day to find out if the steroids treatment packed a punch and gave us a diagnosis of Auto-immune Hepatitis. Not sure if I wanted to find that out because that would mean pretty much a life-long disease for Wyatt, but at the same time, this whole not knowing what is wrong with his liver is just... well crappy!

But we received his results today and they weren't much better than his preliminary results from yesterday which basically shows that some of his functions are improving, but others are unexpectedly not (and even got slightly worse). They want to do one more day of testing before scrapping the steroid treatment, but I'm not expecting anything different tomorrow. So essentially, we'll most likely be back to square one and simply not know what is wrong.

If there's an upside, I can't believe they're going to need us to stay at the hospital for much longer. Wyatt is clearly feeling great and his numbers have improved enough to where the fear of his liver taking a turn for the worse seems to have receded. At this point, we could conceivably come in once a day or every other day for the lab work so hopefully, our hospital stay is nearing its end.

Or they could keep us for all eternity... that's like option B.

--Corey

Wyatt's Pending Release (w/ Catch)

Jun 6, '08 10:41 PM
for everyone



The surreal saga continues and today's mixed bag of news simply punctuates what a roller coaster ride this has been.

Wyatt's latest results is more of the same, unexpected plateaus, lack of improvement and even very slight worsening in some of his liver functions. But to look at him, you'd swear he was healthy as a horse! I seriously think he'd be crawling all over the place if he hadn't been stuck in a hospital the past couple weeks. They are going to go ahead and stop the steroid treatment for now and as long as tomorrow's morning results aren't glaringly different, they will most likely release us.

But the catch is that the lack of progress from the steroid treatment does not revert them back to an infectious diagnosis... it's actually worse. They are leaning toward a "Type 2 Auto-Immune Hepatitis" which is similar to what they thought when they started the steroids, but unfortunately, adds the difficulty of being "Type 2". If this ends up being an accurate



diagnosis, it will most likely be a life-long disease that will need to be treated and managed through medication starting off with another hospital stay in the near future. So even though we could conceivably be released tomorrow, we probably won't be able to settle in for long unless his liver functions show significant improvement next week on their own (which is unlikely if they are correct in this preliminary diagnosis).

So while this isn't the greatest of news, there are some silver-linings, the obvious being that Trisha and Wyatt get to come home tomorrow (even if temporarily) and that we are closer to a true diagnosis and treatment which is better than the fear and stress of not knowing and not having a treatment for whatever was ailing my little dude!

Anyway, I will shoot off a blog tomorrow if/when my bab(ies) come home and stay tuned next week for further information regarding this potential diagnosis!

--Corey

My New Home

Jun 7, '08 2:07 PM
for everyone

is Rady Children's Hospital... They took bloodwork today which was supposed to give us a "temporary" ticket home, but the results came back not so good. Wyatt's synthetic functions declined a little and they don't want to send us home. The plan was to send us home for the week (not on any steroids) in order to monitor (thru lab work) his liver functions. This was for two reasons. One, to give us another baseline for when they start the next treatment of immune suppressant drugs, and two, to see again if his functions would improve on their own (for the last ditch hope of this being a viral problem vs. autoimmune). Since his functions did not improve today, they are going to keep us here and for the next day or two just draw labs to check liver functions. If they feel they are at the point where they need to intervene again, the "other" stronger immune suppressant drugs will begin.

According to the doctors, they believe Wyatt has a Type II Autoimmune Hepatitis. Unfortunately type II is the hardest to control and is often unresponsive to the initial steroid treatment (as was the case with Wyatt). These other drugs (which will probably begin either Sunday or Monday are actually stronger and have a good success rate, but I am still nervous. We need these to work.

If they don't work....we are already talking with our doctor about preparing for a liver transplant for little Wyatt. This procedure can be done here, but our doctor said sometimes they are done at Los Angeles or San Francisco hospitals. We are in the beginning stages of discussing this, but unfortunately, if those meds do not work, this could become a rapid reality. For infants, they

determine liver failure strictly on lab work results. I suppose a good thing is that our doctor says that liver transplants have a very good success rate. Although she said she had a patient who had to go through three of them before they had a completely compatible liver. Scary.

How do we feel? I'm so confused and overwhelmed. I never thought I would ever have to process something of this magnitude. We brought our baby to the ER for a RASH! Not a liver transplant. This has been the longest two weeks of my life, but things are happening way too fast. I'm scared and sad. I miss my family and I would rather be home. I'm worried for Wyatt's safety and future. I have to put faith in these doctors, but that is the most difficult thing because I know there are no guarantees. I really need some good news. Please send your good thoughts, prayers, and anything else you think might work! We need these new drugs to work their magic.

In the meantime, Parker is doing good. He has been cared for by all his grandparents who take turns during the week so Corey can continue working. Thank you to all of you. It looks like we will need your support even more in the coming weeks.

Trisha

Quick Update on Wyatt

Jun 8, '08 11:08 AM
for everyone

We discussed with our doctors today the next steps and essentially, we're moving forward with the next line of medicine to try and stave off a liver transplant. We should know early next week if the immunosuppressives work or not. If not, then we unfortunately have no choice but to replace his liver with a healthy one and that will happen fairly quickly if those results come back negative.

I will post some more information later tonight, but in the meantime, if you want to do some research on your own, feel free to visit the following site:

<http://www.classkids.org/Resources/resourcecenter.htm>

--Corey

A Scary, Scary Time for Wyatt and Family

Jun 8, '08 9:28 PM
for everyone



I want to preface this by saying that I'm sure it's very difficult for all of you to continue to receive negative news on this situation as it has deteriorated. But we appreciate your love, support and generosity and I truly hope that sooner rather than later, we will be able to report positive news.

Unfortunately, I fear that it may get worse before it gets better.

There is a lot to report and not much, if any of it is positive so feel free to put off reading this post if you don't have much time or the strength emotionally for whatever reason.

Morning

This morning we had a discussion with our doctors regarding next steps and the current situation. Essentially, Wyatt's liver functions are getting worse. In light of this, they decided that they should move him up to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where he would have a dedicated nurse and full monitoring of his vitals.

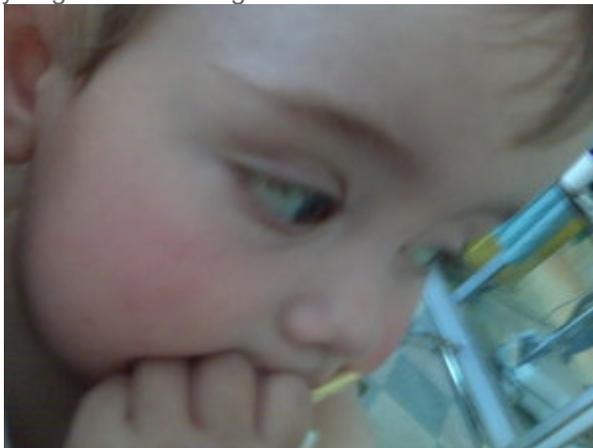
In addition, they also decided to hook a Central IV so they could take blood more frequently without poking him with needles which was a relief since during this entire stay they had had a hard time drawing blood from him.

Afternoon

Right after lunch was when things started to get tough. We met with the UCSD liver transplant team who work out of both UCSD (for adults) and Rady's (for children). While we feel good about the level of quality and experience behind these doctors, we did get a pretty complete 1st picture for what might happen should we have to take this step in Wyatt's treatment. To hear things like how he could slip into a coma or even be medically induced into one should his liver suddenly deteriorate was pretty gut-wrenching. To hear them discuss the reality of the complications that could lead to the death of a transplant patient was unbearable.

In the end, we were given the complete rundown and the good news is that usually, these procedures are successful and the team of doctors who would be performing them have decades of experience performing them.

Even though they began this meeting with a sincere declaration that they do not believe at this



time he needs a transplant, they do want to be proactive. They've started the process of listing him on the national donor list and he will receive top priority as an infant but the reality is, if his liver functions fail rapidly, there could be a logistics

problem with obtaining a liver in time (which was listed as one of the causes of death in a patient during this meeting).

In light of this news, we are beginning the process of screening for potential live donors. The first things they will look at is blood type. Wyatt's is O- so a potential donor will need that same type. Once a matching blood type is confirmed, they will move on to testing whether or not the liver is healthy enough to donate a portion of.

So at this time, we are accepting inquiries from anyone and everyone who would consider undergoing this process (mom and dad of course are already on the list). Of course, this is a very serious matter and surgery so we would never, ever, expect this from anyone, but if you do feel compelled to do so, please e-mail me at cleamon@cox.net with your name and phone number and I will have the transplant team coordinator Rosemary contact you. I personally feel that a live donor would be an emergency-only type of situation as there really isn't any additional benefit to using a live donor other than a logistical one.

Evening

As Trisha, Kathe (Trisha's Mom) and Pam (Trisha's Sister) were cruising out with Parker giving mom a much needed break from the hospital, Wyatt was getting a dose of sedation medication and boy was it a riot to see him get "loopy". He was chattering and playing and acted as if there wasn't a care in the world! He received his central IV and as the sun went down, unfortunately, things started to get weird.

First, he was unable to start immunosuppressant medication because he has developed a slight fever. This means that there is sign of infection and the medication might assist that infection in getting worse. Second, the results from his latest lab work came back and they worsened again. Finally, at about 8:30pm, Wyatt suddenly began thrashing and screaming and they had to subdue him via a morphine drip. They do not know what caused this outburst of what seemed to be pain, and currently, as I type this, I believe he is calm and sleeping. However, in light of all that's gone on, I cannot help but feel in my gut that his body is losing it's grip and it won't be long before we are faced with removing our beautiful boy's liver.

What Lies Ahead

Obviously, no one could have imagined that this is where we would be today. The worst part of all of this is that there is no rhyme or reason, no telling what is going to happen and it does seem that we've gone continually from one nightmare to the next.

We simply have to go at this one day at a time and be ready for things to turn in either direction. Preparations are being made, family is mobilizing and hopefully, no matter what happens, the end result will find Wyatt back home in the loving arms of his family.

--Corey

Quick Update on Wyatt and Offers for Help

Jun 9, '08 8:18 AM
for everyone

Hello everyone. So the quick update is that Wyatt continues to deteriorate from a liver functions standpoint and he's moved into top priority on the donation list. In the meantime, his fever has scaled back and so they have started him on the immunosuppressant medicine (it's called cyclosporin). Hopefully this will halt his slide toward liver failure... we should know within 24 to 48 hours if it's working.

As a small side note, as if we didn't have enough on our plate, we're hearing rumors that the insurance company will not approve a liver transplant in San Diego! So we may end up in Los Angeles or San Francisco depending on how the discussions go with them (believe me, we're going to be on the horn with them ASAP). I can't help but feel as though those f***** are putting my kids life in danger and it's simply infuriating.

Finally, since this all started, we've been receiving an outpouring of offers to help and I thought I'd let everyone know that other than thoughts and prayers, there are two main ways you can help.

1. Visiting Trisha in the hospital - for everyone that is local, Trisha would love to see a fresh face and sometimes it is helpful for the little things like holding him to allow her to stretch her legs! She is confined to a bed with a tiny tv and that's pretty much all she can do. In addition, this is your chance to give Wyatt your love in person, he may only be 9 months, but he needs a good solid hug just like the rest of us (if not more). It would be very helpful if you could do it during the day when most of us work, but anytime would be good. If this is something you can do, simply call me at 760-529-2080 or e-mail me at cleamon@cox.net to let me know when you'd like to visit and I'll double-check to see if that window is open.

2. Cash Donations - as you can imagine, the financial burden we are starting to experience is making this more difficult. Luckily, we are almost fully covered for all of this, but I'm sure we will be hit with a decent sized deductible (I have to check my plan) and the logistics of the hospital stay has caused our food and gas budget to be blown to smithereens. There's also the chance that we may have to drive or fly to LA or San Francisco which could add to expenses we haven't budgeted for. Obviously, we know times are tight and do not expect much, but even enough to cover dinner for one night helps. You can send donations to 651 Canopy Dr, San Marcos, CA 92069.

Thanks all of you who have already taken the time to visit, help with Parker and donate cash... words cannot express how much we appreciate you being there for us.

--Corey

Transferring to LA

Jun 9, '08 2:15 PM
for everyone

Just wanted to alert everyone that we're being transferred to UCLA.

Further detail to follow...

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Transfer to LA on a Holding Pattern

Jun 9, '08 3:44 PM
for everyone



What a crazy day! I have taken leave from work for now to tend to my family and the instant I make it to the hospital, I walk into a room full of personnel telling my wife that they are planning to transfer us to UCLA Medical Center. Essentially, my insurance company will not approve a liver transplant for Wyatt here at Rady's because Rady's is not considered a "Center of Excellence" (which basically boils down to the number of Medical patients they work on, not the quality of their care).

Anyway, while we wait, Wyatt is sleeping most of the day as he receives another blood transfusion to help keep his clotting times under control. In addition, he had a CAT scan to make sure there was no swelling in his brain... that came back normal so we're good there.

Finally, just as we were starting to make plans to go to LA, the doctor came in and told us to hold off on that because the CFO of Rady's is in discussion with Cigna to try and keep him here for the procedure.

Just to let you know, the transfer to UCLA does not guarantee that he requires a transplant. They simply wanted to utilize this window where he is in ok shape (basically, he's not at failure yet) to get him over there because obviously, if something dramatic happened, they would've wanted him to be there and ready to go.

We are still holding out hope that the immunosuppressant will work and that we can avoid it, but it's still too early to tell how that medication is doing.

As always, we will update you if we end up making the move, if we hear any additional results and/or if we get to stay here.

--Corey

[Wyatt Going to LA, Transplant Close](#)

Jun 9, '08 11:01 PM
for everyone



We are officially going to the UCLA Medical Center, mostly likely in the morning (barring an emergency transplant tonight should Wyatt really turn for the worse). It was a long and difficult day today so I'll try to relay the plan as best I can.

First, the move to LA is not a bad thing. While the circumstances are terrible (it's essentially an insurance issue with political undertones), the end result is that Wyatt will get the best care possible as UCLA Medial Center is one of the top liver transplant centers in the world. So if and when they move forward with transplant, there isn't a better place he could be for the kind of experience and quality the doctors there bring to the table.

So that's the good thing. Unfortunately the sad part is, we're not going to LA to tour celebrity homes. We are facing one of those situations that will test us in ways that are almost unimaginable. Our son has been classified a "Status 1" priority on the donor list which means he's a top priority and should start receiving offers for liver donation. It is at that time that the doctors will make the call on whether or not to transplant. While there is a little bit of hope that they will not have to transplant, I cannot on good conscience report that turnaround is likely without it. If that somehow happens, and his disease goes into remission, then that will be an amazing miracle and we will be very thankful beyond words could describe. But alas, after seeing how lethargic he was today, the yellow tint of his skin and eyes, our doctor proclaiming that if she had an offer for a liver today, she would elect to transplant, we feel the time has nearly come. He's a "Status 1" and he's headed to LA for a reason, and that is to most likely, receive a new liver through the miracle of modern medicine. This is a very, very complex procedure with all of the dangers of a major medical surgery which is also further complicated by his age. To say the least, we could be entering what will go down as the darkest, most difficult days of our lives.

Trisha, Pam, myself and Parker will all be there in LA by Wyatt's side (for as long as they'll allow us to be there) as well as a revolving door of family and friends who want to come give him their love (health permitting). We plan on renting a house nearby or a couple hotel rooms to be close (the insurance company will be reimbursing us for this cost).

We believe that Wyatt knows how much he is loved and he is a fighting hard to come through this. Just as Wyatt Earp blazed trails through the old West, our Wyatt is going to blaze a trail through this disease and will be back home in the loving arms of his family before we know it!

So that's about it for now. I'm not sure what my internet situation will be like once I reach LA, but I will do my best to continue to send updates, even if I have to do short blurbs through my Blackberry.

So off we go to the city of Angels, lets hope a few of them are looking down on my beautiful baby boy as he bravely embarks on this journey...

--Corey

A Glimmer of Hope

Jun 10, '08 10:01 PM
for everyone



What a difference a day and a new setting makes! With some reserved relief, I'm happy to report that the doctors at UCLA medical center believe that Wyatt has the potential to turn around on his own without a transplant!

While there are still many days ahead of some trial and error and certainly some potential for a downturn in his health, we do have some positive signs.

1. His demeanor is better today than it was yesterday
2. His numbers, according to our doctors are not good, but not as terrible as we thought even as of this morning. Our doctor says she's seen much, much worse and in fact says that she's successfully treated Type 2 Autoimmune Hepatitis without transplant in other patients with similar makeup as Wyatt.
3. If he does as well tomorrow as he did today, he will be moved out of the PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) and admitted to the floor which will provide us with our own room. They actually told us that normally, Wyatt would've been admitted to the floor in his current condition if it weren't for the gloomy picture that Rady's painted.

So how could the two facilities be so different (one is ready to transplant while the other believes there is definitely a possibility for medicinal treatment)?

In a word, experience. UCLA Medical Center has gobs more experience and simply sees far more cases like him as opposed to Rady's. And it didn't help that the Rady's doctors had grown to know Wyatt over the course of the 2 weeks and those of us who've been to see Wyatt regularly since the beginning know that he displayed an incredible decline between Saturday (when we thought we may be released) to yesterday. I think those doctors just panicked whereas the people here did not witness that decline, and even if they had, they have the experience to recognize why that may have happened (they believe it was due to taking him off of steroids which causes a "flare" in the liver inflammation).

In an amazing turn of events, Cigna (my health insurance company), clearly did us a favor by essentially forcing us to come here. The difference is night and day and I can truly say that Wyatt is in the best place possible for treatment, whether they end up doing the transplant or not.

Speaking of, we are definitely not out of the woods yet. Clearly this is just one day and we've actually seen him "bounce" like this immediately after a blood transfusion (which he received yesterday). So we cannot get ahead of ourselves.

But obviously, this is a significant sliver of positive news and after days and days of being socked with gut-wrenching news, it was a welcome relief to find that there's still a chance.

For those of you who wish to visit, please stand-by. While in the ICU, it's terribly rigid and difficult to get visitors in, but if we are moved, then we can probably start making arrangements for people to come see us. It would be most welcome.

In the meantime, sorry if we cannot get back to you, it's difficult due to a "no cell phone" policy on the entire floor, so we only get brief periods between seeing Wyatt to make phone calls. If we are moved into our own room, we should have a dedicated phone number in which to call.

So rest easy tonight and lets hope the positive news continues. Even if it does not, and we head down the path we thought we were on, we can all at least hold solace in the fact that we are at the 3rd best hospital in the nation (we believe it, it's well deserved)!

Night!

--Corey

[Heading Over to See Wyatt](#)

Jun 11, '08 8:02 AM
for everyone

I'm just about to leave to walk across the street to see my little cowboy and wanted to throw in a quick update before I did that.

He had a pretty good night, was very cheerful and playful and in fact, for the majority of the night, he slept in a crib watched by the nurses while we got some much needed rest here in our hotel room.

His numbers are jumping up and down a bit and they are giving him more plasma to keep them steady but overall, he's doing well and they will most likely be moving us out of the PICU today which is a good thing.

More to come!

--Corey

[A Tougher Day for Wyatt and Crew](#)

Jun 11, '08 9:42 PM
for everyone



It was nice to have some positive news yesterday, but it certainly wasn't long before reality set back in. While he is definitely fighting with everything he's got, the truth of the matter is our son is very, very sick and there were some rough, tear-filled moments today.

As you can see from his picture, he had a good morning. He was cheerful and playful and had some good energy. The same goes for this evening right before I left the hospital. But in-between, he was definitely very lethargic and tired. He slept on my chest almost all day long. And the times he came to was accompanied by either some crankiness, or a quick burst of energy before going right back to being tired and sleepy.

In addition, he's getting very yellow (even the whites of his eyes) and his stools are turning white. This is a classic symptom for liver disease and is to be expected, but nevertheless, it's difficult to see.

But overall, these are simply part of his disease and it's really going to be his numbers that will do the talking over the course of the next few days as he receives his steroid treatment. So we're not going to lose that hope for medicinal treatment unless it is 100% not there.

But (and this is a big but, please be prepared for something that is very difficult for me to write), the hardest part was not the time spent with Wyatt today. The most difficult time we had today was regarding the education they are giving us regarding his potential liver transplant which is very much still a looming possibility... if not likely. To hear the transplant coordinator talk to us in full, honest detail regarding the liver transplant and it's aftermath is simply terrifying beyond words.

In addition, Wyatt was listed on the donation list today and is going to begin receiving offers for liver transplants shortly. It will be at that time that the doctors will take a look at his health and decide whether to transplant. Just to give you an idea for how sick he is, they give all potential transplant patients a score called the PELD score in a range with a max of 40 being the worst and 29 being the danger level requiring transplant soon. Bottom line, the PELD score tells them how likely a patient will succumb to liver disease within 30 days (without treatment of course). Sobering to say the least to hear this about your child. Wyatt's score as of this morning was a 26.

So as you can imagine, we definitely had a rough morning.

I apologize for reporting such a heavy load tonight, but I think it's important to be prepared for all the difficult ups and downs we will be experiencing over the next several days and by putting this down here, it helps to keep us prepared in case the transplant path is the road that must be taken.

As of now, we have yet to hear on whether we will be moved from the PICU (I am doubtful at this point). But if they do move us, obviously they feel ok about his health still and we would certainly welcome that.

In the meantime, we are moving to a condo tomorrow located about a mile from the hospital so I'll report more info regarding our long-term accommodations tomorrow. We should be there anywhere from a couple weeks to a month.

Sorry for the novel, talk to you later!

--Corey

Morning Update on Wyatt

Jun 12, '08 8:38 AM
for everyone

Wyatt had a pretty good night and we all got some rest again which was nice. We received some lab results back this morning and as Trisha and the doctor put it, they're "eh"! This is actually good! There were a few items that improved ever so slightly but his coagulation numbers are still concerning and haven't improved (though they didn't get worse either). So overall, a "not getting worse" result is good news and apparently, he was very hyper and playful this morning which was good as well.

They are going to hold off on moving us out of the PICU until they can feel a bit more comfy with his stability so we'll see how that goes.

That's it for now, I'm off to the hospital!

--Corey

Better Days Ahead?

Jun 12, '08 10:22 PM
for everyone



We had a pretty good day all around (except for Parker's first real meltdown which we all understand is due to hotel rooms, parent juggling, hospitals and a lot of tough days passed). But for the most part, we had one of our better days with some very cool stuff going down including...

1. Wyatt showing some positive signs including a non-decline in all his liver function numbers and even slight improvement in some

2. Some visible reduction in the yellow tint in his skin as well as a lot more energy and awake time

3. Moving into our condo which is very, very nice. It's about a mile from the hospital so it's nice and close and it will help us get Parker into more of a routine, especially since we've booked it for a month to account for a potentially lengthy stay at the hospital.

So with some "cautious optimism" we look forward to seeing how Wyatt does tomorrow because if he can string a couple of these days together, we may be in some serious business! Our doctors, while not trying to get our hopes up too much yet, are pleased with the day's results and with how Wyatt is looking and maybe, just maybe, we'll be moving out of the PICU and onto the floor sooner rather than later. Hopefully, Wyatt will continue to fight the good fight and we can head into the weekend with some solid momentum!

--Corey

Morning Report, Condo Info

Jun 13, '08 11:11 AM
for everyone

Nothing major regarding Wyatt's progress this morning. Some of his numbers declined ever so slightly but some also improved. This seems to be par for the course regarding liver disease and its treatment so overall, I don't think there's much to worry about at this point. He's obviously still fighting and the numbers are showing it.

I thought I'd go ahead and post our address info and phone number in time for weekend visitors, so give us a call at the house if you don't reach us via cell...

10757 Wilkins Ave 1/2 (2nd Unit in the middle)
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Phone: 424-832-3199

Visiting Wyatt

Jun 13, '08 9:48 PM
for everyone



Attention visitors! It sounds like we're going to have quite a convergence of friends and family tomorrow and we welcome anyone and everyone to the hospital to come give their love and encouragement to Wyatt. He really needs it as I believe we only have a few more days to try and let the medicinal treatment work before they look toward a transplant. Unfortunately, while not rapidly declining, some of Wyatt's numbers have declined a bit and it's doubtful that we'll be moved to the floor because of it.

So we'll work visitation into a campground and rotation setting! We should be out at the hospital by 10am or so in the grassy area just before the main entrance to the hospital. We will be hanging out there during the day and everyone who comes to visit will have to rotate one person at a time to go visit Wyatt since he's in the PICU.



Here is the hospital URL for address and directions to get here:

http://www.uclahealth.org/body_med.cfm?id=572&oTopId=56

Also, some things to remember:

- If you have any sort of contagious sickness, even just a small cold, you probably will have to wear a mask and we'd prefer if you didn't touch him (remember, his medication right now suppresses his immune system so a small infection could be a serious problem).
- You must, must, must wash your hands extensively before seeing him when you get into the PICU to visit.
- As stated above, we will have to rotate you in because there is only 2 people allowed at the bedside in the PICU due to the nature of the unit (it's very cramped and houses the more critically sick patients). Most likely, Trisha will be with him so only one other person can be at the bedside to visit.
- You will have to park at the hospital which costs \$8 and they don't take credit cards so bring cash!
- If you plan on hanging out, which you're welcome to do, feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets, coolers or anything else you'd like to make yourselves comfortable. The grassy area is very large and it will be no problem to have our own private section in which to hang out and spend time together.
- There is a great cafeteria in the hospital and we're also right across from a grocery store and walking distance to the Westwood Village which has plenty of restaurants and shops if you want to make a day of it and cruise around.

Give me a call at 760-529-2080 if you have any questions or problems!

--Corey

Update on the PieMan

Jun 14, '08 5:18 PM
for everyone

I rarely have a moment of downtime, but I thought I would take a moment to share some of my thoughts. Corey has been so great to keep everyone up to date. We are settled into our "new

home" here in Los Angeles. I have to write down the streets each time I get in the car, just so I can find my way back home.

As tired as I am, every second that I have away from the hospital, I can't help feeling like I need to be right back there. I just don't want my little man to feel alone at any moment. I know he must be scared. I think we are all so scared that we just don't really know how to handle it. It's approaching a month now since we first took Wyatt to the ER in San Diego. I have a photo on my laptop where he is so happy and healthy being hugged by Parky. It's hard to process.

Sometimes things just don't seem fair. Being at the hospital sure makes that feeling sink in. How unfortunate life's plan is for little children sometimes. But they are tough. I hear them all cry and laugh just the same, amidst all the medical procedures and machine beeping. We are going to have to get pieman a flashing light, beeping machine for his room when we finally bring him home. I'm not sure he'll sleep without it.

We have been told this morning by our doctor that the immune specilists are suggesting that we increase the dosage of Wyatt's steroid treatment starting today. They said that they would like to see improvement by Wednesday and if they don't, then it's time for the transplant. While I do know that is just days away, I am still holding out hope that we have a fight. Please send all your good waves to us this week. We need them more than ever.

I want to thank everyone who has shared their thoughts, gifts, donations, and assistance. There is no way we could make it through this without all of you. Even as we dove deeper into this medical journey, I don't think I understood how much this would impact our life. Life as we knew it has done a 180. But we're here, we're fighting, and we will make it through.

Thank you for following our experience....may this be our week!

Trisha

[A Father's Fathers Day Wish List](#)

Jun 14, '08 11:31 PM
for everyone



As father's day is here, I thought I'd share with everyone my wishes and hopes for '08. You won't find any new gadgets, the latest dvd movies, the hottest fashions or any other material item that you'd find in the nearest shopping mall or on Amazon.com in this particular list.

I wish my wife could sleep in

I wish she didn't have to bear the burden of late nights and early mornings

I wish she didn't have to know what inr, ast, alt numbers and a peld score were

I wish she was able to do laundry using her own washer and dryer

I wish I could absorb her fear, sadness and stress

I wish I had her strength

I wish Parker were not lying next to me right now, but in his own bed at home



I wish I had as much power to console him as a bar of ice cream

I wish he weren't angry with us

I wish I could snap my fingers and help him understand why we've been uprooted

I wish his favorite mode of transportation was his bike and not the LA Metro bus line

I wish he could play with his brother

I wish my son Wyatt was the happy, healthy baby he was 45 days ago

I wish he was sleeping in his crib at home right now instead of in the arms of an ICU nurse

I wish he was a normal shade of color



I wish he didn't have wires and tubes running from his body

I wish he had had a chance to learn to crawl

I wish I could trade places with him and take all his pain and fear away

I wish I didn't have to wait on pins and needles to hear the latest "numbers"

I wish he'd get well soon

I wish these things with all of my heart and I know that very soon, they will all be wishes of the past as we return home safe and sound to continue on in our journey through this world. In the end, my final wish is that you all have a wonderful father's day, and that you understand the true meaning and miracle behind being a happy, healthy "child"... something I haven't ever considered until now.

Love to you all on father's day...

--Corey

Wyatt's Week Ahead

Jun 15, '08 9:14 PM
for everyone



Leaving the hospital today at around 8pm, I felt it in my heart. Wyatt is going to have to have a liver transplant.

I've held out hope all week long that he would buck the trend and finally take that turn, and there's still a chance that it could happen, but even our doctors are now sounding less confident and beginning to prepare us for what's to come if that doesn't take place. These doctors have made a valiant effort and I give them all the credit in the world. Their reputations are well-deserved and I can't thank them enough but unfortunately, the signs are all there.

Wyatt's demeanor has been good almost all week. He had a rough day today with some serious irritability, but that's most likely a side effect of the massive doses of steroids they've been giving him these past two days. Overall, though, he's been a sleepy, discolored version of himself, still finding ways to laugh and play whenever he could muster up the energy.

Unfortunately, his liver function numbers are telling us a different story. The various numbers that they look for have continued to fluctuate up and down over a line that has slowly been trending down, like a declining piece of stock that continues to try and hang on. Specifically, his "INR" numbers which measure clotting in his blood have continued to start the morning low (after a dose of plasma in the middle of the night) but then by the end of the day it's way elevated again. It might not be as disappointing if those numbers held steady or his highs were lower each day, but unfortunately, it's the opposite. His highs keep rising. Thursday was 3.0, Friday was 3.1, Saturday was 3.2 and tonight it was 3.5. Keep in mind that when he was first stabilized in San Diego the week he was admitted, he was at a 1.4 which is still considered elevated. A 2.0, along with a few other factors, qualifies him immediately for a "Status 1A" on the transplant list which

essentially makes him a top priority. The only thing keeping him off the Status 1A list is the doctors, who've tried to hold off to let the treatment work.

So what is next? They will continue to try and fight this with heavy doses of steroids and another dose of "IVIG" (which is essentially a big dose of other people's antibodies to help protect against diseases) through Tuesday. On Wednesday, I believe that if they don't see significant improvement in his liver functions, particularly his clotting times, then they will switch him over to Status 1A on the donor list and we will begin receiving offers for liver donors... probably fairly quickly, especially if they have to dial back on the medicines to increase his PELD score (the score that determines your priority for a transplant)... yes, you heard that right. They may have to expose his disease further to improve his priority for a transplant.

Hopefully we will receive a good liver donor quickly and this will be the one that gives him his life back. As you can imagine, there are tons of tests and stuff they have to run over the course of a 24 to 48 hour period before green-lighting the procedure but they will not fully know if the liver they receive will function properly until the procedure is finished and they treat him on a similar diet of steroids and immunosuppressants to help the new liver begin to work it's magic without any interference.

So that's the condensed version of what we can expect this week unless we see a truly miraculous turnaround in the next day or two (which I will gladly and whole-heartedly accept instead of the picture I've painted here).

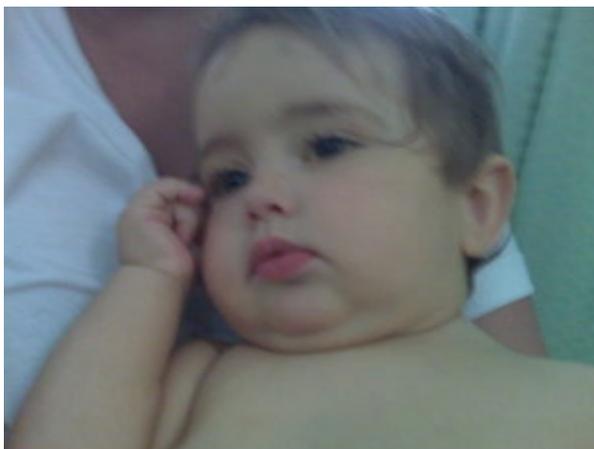
Obviously though, it's time to start preparing for this scenario as it is the more likely one and it's going to take everything we've got (and then some) to find the strength to make it (as if we had the choice, right?).

Much more on this subject to come as we get closer. I will try to update the FAQ in the next day or two to answer what I'm sure will be lots of questions you may have.

--Corey

[Time for Wyatt to Get a New Liver](#)

Jun 16, '08 8:31 PM
for everyone



"Leaving the hospital today at around 8pm, I felt it in my heart. Wyatt is going to have to have a liver transplant."

Those of you who've read last night's blog know that I wrote that after I left the hospital yesterday evening. Yet even though I knew it, felt it and wrote it, the blow was not softened when our Doctor told us that she feels that Wyatt needs to be placed on the Status 1a list tonight.

In no uncertain terms, this declaration meant that Wyatt needs a liver transplant or else he will not make it in this world.

Even as I write that it's hard for me to wrap my brain around it. My brain seems to be trying to fight that news off, ironically as an antibody would normally fight off an infection.

But my heart has taken full inventory on this situation and even though I run through the gauntlet of human emotions (saddness, fear, anger, despair, hope, etc.), I know that deep down this is the only chance he has to live and it's 100% the right decision. To delay it any further would simply continue to deny what his body is telling us, and that is simply his liver is failing and there's no stopping it.

How a 9 month old liver with about .002 miles on it has to be replaced, I will never understand and to be frank, I don't even want to know at this point. All I want is for my son to come through this and to live what will hopefully be a full and (mostly) normal life. And I would give everything to ensure that will happen.

At this point, we've hit the eye of the storm as we await our liver donor offers. Once they find one, things will be fast and chaotic. I am going to submit several blogs tonight and tomorrow describing different aspects of this situation and then I may have to be offline for a period... I just don't know.

Stay close...

--Corey

[An Offer is In](#)

Jun 17, '08 10:41 AM
for everyone

We have our first offer for a liver so if this one tests well, then we could be in surgery by tonight or tomorrow morning.

I am sitting in the hospital courtyard as they prep him just in case its a good fit.

We will know by 3pm-ish if this is the one. If so, then we move forward with surgery within 4 to 12 hours (most likely).

To any of you that want to be here, I would pack an extra set of clothes and be ready for the word. If you need directions you can click on "Blog" on our website and scroll down to find the entry that contains that info.

If this isn't the one, we wait for the next offer and the cycle starts again.
We'll be in touch...

--Corey

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

[Wyatt, Liver Transplant FAQ](#)

Jun 17, '08 12:41 PM
for everyone

I thought I would update this to answer a lot of the current crop of questions that people are asking...

Q. What's wrong with Wyatt?

A. The doctors are confident in the diagnosis which is Autoimmune Hepatitis Type 2 and is a very difficult disease to control with the standard steroid treatment that accompanies Autoimmune Hepatitis Type 1. Unfortunately, Wyatt's body has rejected all the treatments his doctors could come up with and we will be moving forward with a liver transplant to save his life.

Q. What is the success rate of a liver transplant?

A. The rate is fairly high, about 90% of all liver transplant patients make it through the most difficult year (the first) and 95% make it through year 5. One thing going for him is that he's still in fairly good health (comparatively) and he's going to be operated on by the best doctors in the world for this type of procedure. Certainly, we are hopeful and counting on Wyatt being a part of the success rates and hopefully we'll be heading home soon after..

Q. What are some complications?

A. The biggest enemy of a transplant patient is actually not "rejection" which is when the body rejects the new organ... it is infection. Infection is the main cause in the majority of patients who die during this procedure. This will be the number one concern for our doctors and surgeons. Other complications include the aforementioned rejection, lack of a good donor and much more. I don't think it's a good idea to list them all here but feel free to Google that information if you want to delve further.

Q. If his immune system is attacking his current liver, won't it happen to his new one?

A. Yes. This is a life-long disease that needs very special treatment, especially in the first year. It starts with high doses of immunosuppressants that keep his attacking antibodies at bay allowing his new liver to regenerate and learn to function as it should. Over the course of several months, they will dial back on the treatment until a fine balance is reached between holding back his immune system while still allowing it to ward off infection. This treatment will go on for the rest of his life and will leave him susceptible to infection, sickness, bleeding and other side effects from this disease.

Q. So if his immune system still attacks his liver, could he need another transplant?

A. Unfortunately yes, this is one of the scary issues with this procedure and the disease. This could happen immediately, or it could happen within a year (10%) or later down the line. They just can't tell us if we will have to face this again in the future but they have to warn us that it's possible.

Q. Is he going to have to wait to get a liver?

A. Most likely, not very long. He has been switched to "Status 1A" which is the top priority for receiving a liver donation. In addition, his PELD score is above 30 now (they usually don't go much higher than 40) so our doctors will probably start receiving offers for donation immediately, however, they will have to weed out the "junk" organs and it could be hours to days before they find the right one. In the end, we have no idea how long it will take, it could be tomorrow, next week or anywhere in-between.

Q. How long does it take to go from the liver selection to surgery?

A. About 4 to 12 hours so once they've got the right one, they should move very fast.

Q. How long does the surgery last?

A. Approximately 4 to 8 hours.

Q. How long will his recovery period be?

A. We will remain at UCLA Medical Center until his liver functions are doing their job. Best cases are 1 to 3 weeks but due to his age, the doctors believe it could be a full month or more.

Q. Can I be at the hospital with the family during surgery?

A. Yes, please make sure you e-mail me with the best phone number to reach you at. We will be given a section of the "Surgical Waiting Room" for our family. Keep in mind that the surgery could happen at any time day or night so keep your cell phones charged and ringers on in case you're sleeping and would like to be notified of the start time. Anyone present during the procedure will have immediate updates via our personal coordinator, however, I will post updates to my blog via my phone as quick as I can.

Q. Can I visit Wyatt before the surgery?

A. At this point in time, our son's safety is paramount. So we've all agreed that only Trisha, Pam and myself will be into the ICU to see Wyatt. Essentially, this helps decrease the chance of him catching any sort of infection which, as stated before is the #1 reason for the cause of death in a liver transplant patient.

If you have any further questions, post them in the comments below!

Liver Donation Cancelled

Jun 17, '08 2:39 PM
for everyone

Unfortunately, the family of the donor backed out this afternoon so we're back on the top of the list awaiting a new offer.

So for now, we just wait.

--Corey
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Donated Liver is Back (Maybe)

Jun 17, '08 9:14 PM
for everyone

The family of the donor who reconsidered earlier has changed their position and the doctors are flying to Phoenix tonight to examine the liver. If they like what they see, the transplant will be moving forward early tomorrow morning, probably around 5 to 6am.

I will post a quick message if we get a call tonight (sometime between 11pm and 2am). So that you will know should you check your e-mail in the morning.

Don't forget to leave your ringers on if you've requested a phone call from me allowing you to join us during the surgery.

--Corey

Wyatt is Going to Win This Battle, Here's Why...

Jun 17, '08 9:19 PM
for everyone



Over the past several weeks, we've been posting a lot of information regarding Wyatt's journey and much of it has been raw and full of emotion. Much of that emotion has been fueled by sadness, anger, despair and flat out terror.

But as the family heads into this next phase, I thought I would post the reasons why Wyatt will take this battle head on and defeat it, something I believe 100% in my heart. These reasons range from factual, to logical to philosophical. So here they are in no particular order...

1. The first, obvious fact is that we are in the best hospital in the world for this procedure. The team that have been working with us and Wyatt pioneered this operation and they have over 25 years experience doing so. The statistics are also in our favor in that 90% of all liver transplant patients make it through the first year which is by far, the most difficult. In short, we're in the best, most-capable hands possible and history, medicine and technology is in our corner...
2. *"He's a big kid!"* I can't tell you how many doctors and nurses said this to me. Just today a doctor saw him and thought he was a year old just by looking at him. This is going to be to our advantage. He's big, strong, and compared to many transplant patients, he's in pretty good "health" considering. The simple fact that he's a fairly healthy transplantee should help his body recover allowing this procedure to be successful.
3. He is so loved. The love Trisha, Parker and I feel for this kid is immeasurable. On top of that, all of you, out there following along have shown so much love and support toward him and our family and for every call, text message, blog comment or e-mail we received, a piece of that warmth flowed through us into him. I believe he will be fine because he knows how much he is loved by all of us.



4. His name is Wyatt. I don't believe it's coincidence that we named this boy after the famed western figure, Wyatt Earp who fought through amazing odds and survived himself. If you aren't familiar with the history and legend of Wyatt Earp, stop reading this now and rent either Tombstone (Kurt Russel, Val Kilmer) and/or Wyatt Earp (Kevin Costner). In either of those movies, you'll see two major scenes that show Wyatt Earp in gunfights with his adversaries, often point blank. It is absolutely a true representation that Wyatt fought in these gunfights (and others) and was never struck by a bullet. He lived a long, full life of love and adventure. My Wyatt is destined for great things just like Mr. Earp and I know that when all is said and done, he will live up to his name and then some.

5. Because there is no other choice but to live a long, normal, happy life. Plain and simple, this boy was put on this earth to win this battle and thrive for the rest of his days. We know it and feel it with all of our hearts.

So there you have it. Whether he heads into surgery in the morning or whether we wait for another opportunity, the collective love from all of us flowing through to him will be all the lifeline he needs to come back to us healthy and happy.

We love you "Pie Man", Godspeed.

--Corey

No Go On This Liver

Jun 18, '08 2:04 AM
for everyone

They were unable to "split" the liver so they will have to wait for another opportunity.

More later...

--Corey

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

A New Day, A New Liver

Jun 18, '08 9:07 AM
for everyone

At 2am on the dot last night, our doctors called to confirm that the liver they went to see in Phoenix could not be split (they have to split a chunk off from an adult donor to give to a child). We're not totally sure why, but there could've been issues with the placement of the arteries, the size or who knows what else.

Anyway, we've just received word that they're looking at a new potential liver so if they like what they see, they will go check it out and let us know later today.

--Corey

Liver 2 Come and Gone

Jun 18, '08 5:27 PM
for everyone

Unfortunately we had another hit and miss today. Hopefully this cycle doesn't continue for too long.

Corey
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

I Want My Baby Back...

Jun 18, '08 10:14 PM
for everyone



And I'm not talking about Ribs...We need what's underneath those ribs. A new liver for our little man.

Today was another tough day. There has been many of them, but unfortunately as we move through this, we realize the day before wasn't as tough as the current one. Our little Wyatt, or as the hospital thinks, "our big boy" is really showing the signs of his liver failure. While he used to just carry that yellow tint, he now is showing extreme signs of confusion, irritability, and lethargy. I can't begin to describe the pain I feel when he looks right past me like he doesn't even know I am there. It's a strange progression. At the beginning of all this, I just wanted to pump him full of meds and I painstakingly tolerated every needle blood draw because I wanted the "easy" route to fix this. Then we got here to LA and I was asked to pump him full of even more meds and we did, hoping with every fiber that we would avoid this transplant. But as we have seen him decline this week, I find myself wishing at every moment for the perfect liver to come. I know that this is his chance and his only option. It's a strange feeling knowing we are waiting for someone else to pass through this world so that our little boy can continue his journey. I actually watched an Oprah episode a few months back about organ donation and it really got me thinking about the topic. I had always been one of those who thought it was a bit creepy. After that show I had definitely changed my opinion and after this experience with Wyatt, I now know the miraculous gift of life that donation provides. It may be the only solace for losing a loved one. Knowing that you can save someone else of that same grief when losing someone that you love.

As you all know, we have now had two offers which did not materialize. While this is very disappointing, I know that UCLA is very careful in their decision. They are not going to put just any liver in our little boy. As sick as he is and as scary as our experience has been over the last few days, they are going to find the best fit for him. I remind myself of this every moment as I hold him and try to comfort him.



Because of his obvious decline in demeanor, we insisted in getting a CT scan today. This is essentially how they would determine whether there has been any effect to his brain in the matter of swelling or bleeding. His ammonia levels (blood draw) will also give some indication of brain confusion. The CT scan came back normal - Yea! His ammonia levels have been elevated, but generally not completely extreme. The ICU doctor said that it is most likely just the typical progression of liver disease.

I can tell you I have never seen a little guy fight so hard and that is what we need. I titled this post as I did because I want my little boy back. The little boy that I see smiling in pictures that I took just a month ago. I can't wait to see him again soon! We love you little man, I hope you sleep well tonight. See you bright and early.

Love, Trisha

Liver Donor Daddy

Jun 19, '08 10:01 PM
for everyone



Much like yesterday, today was another gut-wrenching day that seems to be drawing Wyatt nearer to liver failure. We absolutely need our liver sooner rather than later so we've began the process of looking for a live donor. I am taking the first crack at potentially saving my sons life and would gladly put mine on the line to do so. In fact, this is the first time during this entire process where I feel like I'm able to productively try and take away his pain and suffering. I cannot describe how scary it is to see my little boy look past me with a cowering, dazed look in his eyes... if a part of my liver will bring him back to me, so be it, I've never been more ready, willing and hopefully, able.

The process is a similar one to the cadaveric liver transplant only they pretty much perform the surgeries almost simultaneously. It seems we've run



into previously... that my liver may be too large to fit inside such a small body, even though it's split into a larger and smaller chunk. There is added risk in me being the donor... the same risk that any person would face during a major surgery including death, but overall, this is a fairly successful procedure and UCLA has performed over 50 live donor transplants without any casualties.

So as we wait for our results, we certainly are hoping that this could be our first round of good news in weeks and if my liver will do the trick, we may be inclined to proceed no later than sometime this weekend. If not, we begin to "work up" Trisha as a potential donor.

We're getting really, really close to crunch time and our options are fading quickly, but we continue to hold out hope that something is going to come together in the next day or two.

--Corey

Volunteers for Live Donors

Jun 20, '08 2:53 PM
for everyone

Hi everyone. Unfortunately, we've run into what seems to be a neverending string of brick walls. I was notified this afternoon that I am not a potential donor due to the size of my liver. So now we're looking at Trisha as a live donor but they already have a few concerns regarding her profile and we feel that we don't have a lot of time left for Wyatt so we need to act quickly to try and help save him.

Make no mistake, he's dying.

What we're asking of people is not to be taken lightly. There's major risk involved including death, future insurance problems and other issues. But the bottom line is that you would be responsible for potentially saving my beautiful baby's life.

If this is something that you may consider, here are a few guidelines regarding who they are looking for:

- Under 50 (ideally under 40)
- .Medium / Small build
- Blood type O (if you don't know you can be tested)
- Reasonably healthy

If you are willing to save my son's life by considering this, even if you are ruled out as a live donor, please know that we thank you and love you with all of our heart. It takes so much courage and selflessness to even make the phone call and for that we thank you.

Please contact Karyn Marks at 310 206 3990 ASAP.

THANK YOU!!!

--Corey

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

An Amazing Turn of Events

Jun 20, '08 8:17 PM
for everyone

What an unbelievable day. I don't think I've ever had such contrasting extreme of emotion all my life.



This morning Wyatt was in a scary, scary state. While stable now, he has begun losing control of most of his basic functions such as eating and vocalizing. They moved him over to the West PICU which is the most critical care portion of the hospital for children right in front of our eyes. Right about that same time, the doctors informed me that I would not be a viable candidate for the live donor procedure. I was devastated... I never wanted anything so bad in my life and between it all, I completely broke down and lost it. Thank goodness my father was around to give me his patented bear hug because I was ready to jump out the window. Then my mom arrived from San Diego and helped with the consolation and caring... there's just nothing like a good hug from your parents when grieving.

But the emotional roller coaster was just beginning. About 40 minutes ago, we received word from the hospital that Trisha is indeed a viable candidate for a liver donation for my son!!! Unbelievable! These people weren't even going to consider her due to her weight and recent pregnancy and we basically insisted that they try her anyway and at the very least, do a CT scan to see if the size was ok.

Well what do you know, she's a fit! She has just left and has been admitted to the hospital. She will most likely have a biopsy on her liver tomorrow morning, then the day will be full of tests and consultations to finalize everything. By tomorrow evening to Sunday morning, if all goes well, my amazingly brave wife will be putting her life on the line to save our child and I'm so filled with pride, happiness, elation and yes, terror all at once.

Anyone who called our coordinator today will be put down as a backup and if you still want to be considered as a backup, you're welcome to call the number from my previous post.

Anyway, we've finally received that huge boost of hope and strength that we needed and it couldn't be more welcome. My wife Trisha is such an amazing woman and mother and my only regret is that I couldn't be the one facing this hurdle in her stead.

I love you Trisha, thank you for your courage and Wyatt, we'll have you home in no time buddy!

--Corey

Surgery Scheduled for Monday

Jun 21, '08 7:10 AM
for everyone

It looks like Monday is the big day! We've been told that Wyatt is holding steady so they would like to try and give it the weekend to potentially receive any additional cadaver donor offers. Of course, if Wyatt's condition takes any more significant turns as it did yesterday when we moved to the West PICU, then they will most likely do it right away.

So we'll see what happens this weekend, but if you plan on joining us for the surgery (uh, how awful is that going to be, waiting for news on both Wyatt and Trisha for approximately 6 to 8 hours!!!), clear your calendar for Monday.

I will send any additional updates on surgery and times as I get them.

--Corey

Surgery Tomorrow (most likely)

Jun 21, '08 2:15 PM
for everyone

I just received word from Wyatt's doctor that they are working hard to move forward with the procedure tomorrow morning as opposed to Monday.

More to follow...

Corey

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Crunch Time (Can't Come Quick Enough)

Jun 21, '08 9:33 PM
for everyone

Every day for the past week seems to have been a bit tougher and tougher and today was no exception. At around 2pm or so, they finally decided to put Wyatt on an intubator which basically consists of a tube that runs through his throat and allows him to breathe more freely. Everything seemed fine for a few minutes but suddenly, the tension mounted and I was surrounded by scrambling nurses, PICU doctors, and a thick air of concern.

After about 30 to 45 minutes of watching in utter horror (and not knowing what was going on) they explained that he was bleeding into his lungs. They said it could've been the intubation but he had spit up blood earlier in the day so it may have been unrelated.

Regardless, as I type this now by his bedside, he continues to lightly bleed and get suctioned out as they keep him as stable as possible to hopefully get his transplant tonight.

That brings me to an additional development. We may get a cadaveric liver tonight. While not likely it is possible. The liver is earmarked for another patient who is even in worse shape than Wyatt (which hardly seems possible but its true). But she's smaller than Wyatt and is having issues with two other organs so they don't know if she'll be able to take it. If not, then Wyatt may get it in lieu of the live donor path with Trisha. We will know around midnight what the verdict is

with that option. If we go that direction, we will start fairly soon after that (I estimate an hour or two).

If we don't go that route, then we are on with the live donor path where Trisha will take matters in her own hands and give him a portion of her own liver to save his life. That should happen sometime early tomorrow morning.

I will send out an exact update regarding our status as soon as I get it tonight around midnight.

--Corey

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Moving Forward w/ Trisha... Or, Not!

Jun 21, '08 11:45 PM
for everyone

While we did not receive the liver that is now earmarked for the little girl who is a few beds down from Wyatt (good luck to her and her family), we have been told that we are moving forward as planned with Trisha as our live donor. Of course, what fun would it be if we didn't have some sort of wrench waiting in the wings!

Basically, when we found out we weren't getting the one liver, they told us that they were looking at two others as well. One was not going to work due to size again. The other looks to be a good match for Wyatt on paper and is even a full size liver (I have to assume from another child or small teen). There's just one problem... it's on the east coast. So they told us they were moving forward with Trisha for tomorrow morning, probably around 10am or so (educated guess on my part because if they start on the little girl around midnight which was the plan for Wyatt, it would take a good 8 or 9 hours plus a little rest time in-between for the doctors before they could move forward).

But in my original blog post, I was skeptical that they will want to move forward with Trisha, and just a couple minutes ago, I received this text message from her:

"Latest update. I am still being worked up for surgery but they are having the liver from east coast flown out here to analyze. Doc should have update in a few hours. Said they would proceed with me if wyatts condition dictates but if they can hold out to see this liver they will"

So I would definitely not be surprised if they tried to hold out... they've been very clear that they would much prefer the cadaveric donor versus the live donor.

Regardless, I do not think we have much time and the Doctors definitely know this, so it will be a very, very stressful day tomorrow as Wyatt continues to fight his losing battle with his current, dying liver, while we sit by and wait for the call into the OR (Operating Room) for him (and depending on circumstances up to that final minute) his mother.

--Corey

Transplant on for 9AM

Jun 22, '08 6:32 AM
for everyone

We've got our transplant and as I suspected yesterday, they will go with the cadaver donor instead of Trisha! They are going to be ready for the transplant at 9am so anyone who wishes to join us is certainly welcome.



Speaking of coming to the hospital, I've had a lot of questions regarding whether I want people there or not and the short answer is, if you're willing to come support my wife and I, help distract Parker and sit through an 8 hour plus emotional ordeal, then yes, by all means join us!

So for those of you coming, you're coming to the UCLA Medical Center on La Conte Ave. Here are the directions: http://www.uclahealth.org/body_med.cfm?id=572&oTopId=56. When you get here, you'll walk through the main lobby doors and you'll see us directly on your right which is where the surgical waiting room is (see photo). Make sure you bring picture ID as they may need to check you in or something (we'll see).

Anyway, the time has come and momentum has shifted, today the day we get our little boy back and I can't be more thrilled and hopeful.

--Corey

Wyatt Reese Leamon, 9/2/07 - 6/22/08

Jun 22, '08 12:13 PM
for everyone

We're devastated to report that our son Wyatt passed away today in the loving embrace of his mother at 11:19am due to complications in his brain from the failure of his liver.

We love and miss him with every ounce of our being and we will begin making funeral arrangements shortly.

Thanks to all our friends, family and loved ones who supported us and gave Wyatt all their love.

Thank you.

Corey and Trisha.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Wyatt is Free

Jun 22, '08 9:09 PM
for everyone



I did not want the images of Wyatt in the hospital to be the most recent images burned into our minds so I thought I would post this final blog regarding this tragic journey. I will be signing off for a while to grieve and take care of the things that go along with his passing.

Wyatt fought so valiantly and was on the way to his transplant this morning when they confirmed the massive swelling and edema in his brain. He simply ran out of time.

But we and everyone who knew him will always have a place in our hearts for this wonderful little guy, our little "Pie Man" and we will cherish him for all eternity.

We love you Wyatt, and will miss you dearly. You touched us all so deeply and for the brief time that you spent with us, you made every one of us smile. Our hearts will always be filled with the love and happiness you brought us.

Good bye our son, we love you.

Your Family