

SOME BAD NEWS ABOUT MAX'S BIOPSY RESULTS

Max woke up looking so much better this morning and even ate all his breakfast standing up in the kitchen. I felt it was going to be a good day.

But then the doctor from AMC called with the biopsy results. **Max's osteosarcoma has metastasized from the bone to the liver. It is not confined — it is an aggressive tumor, in all parts of his liver, and it has gotten into his blood supply.**

They felt and had hoped that this tumor would NOT be his osteosarcoma, and that we could have treated with chemo. But chemo with liver disease "doesn't usually work well."

She gave me a lot to think about, but nothing too optimistic. He probably has a couple of months or less if we do nothing.

I am not crying. I'm not sure why. I suppose it will come. Right now I feel numb.

I looked through my bills yesterday. After insurance, there is \$2,000 left over from surgery and 2 chemos. I have submitted \$1,800 in additional chemo bills and will be submitting over \$6,000 from the last 9 days. Since this has turned out to be osteosarcoma and not a new cancer, I don't anticipate much reimbursement because my benefits for osteosarcoma were exhausted with the first surgery. But VPI's benefit schedule is so confusing. I never know what they're going to pay. **So, total, the bills were \$12,952. I have so far received \$3,300 in reimbursement.**

Everything was put on the Care Credit account. There is nothing else on that account except treatment for Max. I don't regret a penny of it. I hope Max feels the same way.

I look at him lying on his bed next to me at the computer and wonder what I'm supposed to do next. I wish I could take him somewhere — a waterfront cabin — where we could spend his last days, where we could block out the world and just be Max and Max's Mom, Pam. Okay, now I'm crying. This morning I was so hopeful. This cancer coaster sucks! You don't want to give up. But I'm losing strength. And Max is so, so tired. I'm going to hold him now. That's all I really know how to do.

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KATE FROM WRAPPED IN KINDNESS ENFOLDS MAX'S MOM PAM

These are the eloquent words in which Kate wrapped Pam in her wisdom and kindness.

Dear Pam –

I'm so sorry - but sorry means nothing right now. I wish I could say I know how you feel but I don't. I have walked beside families who were strangers held their hands and hearts virtually as they said goodbye.

My Sammy and Maddie never had a chance — the cancer was full on before it showed its card and once diagnosed there was nothing to be done to make their lives better. With Maddie the vets told us they could keep her "comfortable" for as long as we wanted - we brought her home thinking we had time - what came home that day wasn't my Maddie — what made her my girl was already gone — cancer has stolen her essence and left me a shell. So we let her go.

You will know — Max will tell you when staying is no longer about him. When you love someone as much as we love Max letting go becomes the final everlasting gift we bestow. But for now live in the here and now completely in the moment with Max. Nothing else matters — nothing else will ever be as important in this moment. Max already knows how much you love him, how you humbled yourself, asked for help, put your ego to the side in the name of love. Nothing, no one can ever take that love from you.

Even when he is gone from your line of vision he is forever entwined in your heart and soul — his legacy now and forever a part of yours. Soak it in, make the most of this time to create everlasting beautiful memories, ones that may be masked in sadness for some time but will live on within and a part of you forever.

It's okay to be sad — but live for now without regrets — you have been a wonderful mom to Max and he loves and adores you. And we all respect you.

Kate