

Terry Lindsay – Pain & Suffering

As of June 2010 I have endured 23 operations. Most of these were to remove dead pancreatic tissue. For approximately 18 months I had regular physiotherapy to try and restore movement to my frozen shoulders which occurred because of my 42 days in intensive care. I still have very limited movement in my shoulders and endure pain when raising my arms for more than a minute. I can lift my arms a maximum of 90 degrees.



For 6 years after my illness I had just the tail of my pancreas left but this has now disintegrated and I now function with no pancreas. I have constant insulin injections and tablets to maintain my blood sugar levels. I am also on anti depressant, blood pressure & cholesterol tablets. I do realise that at 53 years old some medical problems are to be expected, so I'm not trying to blame everything on my past illness. I do feel however that my diabetes is definitely related to what happened to me. I was checked for diabetes 3 months prior to becoming ill and there was no sign of it. My mother (who is 73) has developed age onset diabetes but both my father (80) and my brother (51) do not have it. Prior to becoming ill I was healthy - a non - smoker (never smoked) and a non - drinker, I ate healthy and did regular exercise.

I have four children and in 2000 they were 14, 12, 10 & 8. They went through a terrible time being told that I had only a 1% chance of survival. My wife also suffered greatly and I think this contributed to our marriage breakdown after 24 years together. I was very depressed & moody and must have been difficult to live with. Due to my condition I was robbed of the opportunity of playing sports, going to the beach or theme parks, riding bikes etc with my children.

I have an ugly distended abdomen which I am very self conscious about.



I find it hard for clothes to fit properly. Trousers have to be either large enough to go over my distended abdomen (which makes me look 9 months pregnant) or I get them to fit my waist which means the crotch is down by my knees! Shirts have to be worn outside my trousers otherwise I look ridiculous! I find it very difficult to bend down or walk fast. I have constant pains in my stomach and shoulders and find it difficult to get comfortable when sitting down. I have to continually move around. My stomach becomes very bloated sometimes and I have to take laxatives to relieve the discomfort. When walking I feel very unsteady on my feet and sometimes my legs give way and I nearly fall over - this has only happened since becoming ill. I have mentioned this to numerous doctors but no one can tell me what it is. On occasions I wake up choking with a lump in my throat that restricts my ability to breathe. I have to sit upright for at least a half an hour until it settles down. I have consulted my GP who has put me on medication to aid in reducing gastric reflux but I still have the attacks. It is quite worrying when I wake up suddenly and cannot take a breath! I sweat constantly, even in the winter months, and find it hard to breathe especially during the summer months. My GP diagnosed asthma and gave me an inhaler which does help with my breathing but the constant sweating still continues. I do exercise regularly as I have always loved walking. My GP tells me that I am fighting a losing battle with my weight as insulin makes you gain weight and I am on large doses (200 units per day) to try and maintain my blood sugar levels.

I am unable to do any physical work, stand on my feet for long periods, run or do any work that involves lifting my shoulders. I cannot swim, ride a bike, play sports or go camping or do outdoor activities. Even putting on my shoes is a major task. Sexual relations with my partner is also a problem.

I was off work for 3 years and had to do additional study to enable me to get back into the workforce as I was unable physically to do my usual job. My doctor wanted me to go on a disability payment but I knew that would depress me even further. I owed money to family and had private school fees to pay for my four children. Studying and then working took my mind off my illness. I suppose if I had gone on disability and pretended that I was unable to work or study for the past 10 years it would have looked much better for me when determining a financial settlement. It says a lot for doing the right thing and being honest!

I also owe a considerable sum to my parents, my brother and his wife. My parents lived at the Mater Hospital House for 2 ½ months. They were by my side for 14 hours every day. They paid all of my household bills and children's school fees. My brother & his wife paid my mortgage. I estimate that I owe them \$25,000. I would like to be able to repay them.

My estimate for the pain & suffering that I have endured is \$200,000