

November 8, 2010

To: Dr Ronald Van Tuyl
From: Joe DeSantis
Subject: My very successful recovery

Dear Ron,

I can never thank you enough for the outstanding surgery you performed for me. For the past six days, the pain has been minimal (have taken only Tylenol), and the heaviest drainage of blood clots was over in 12 hours. Because you told me the two procedures were fairly new, I thought it might be helpful for you to know how my recovery progressed.

Nasal drainage: Upon returning home last Thursday, I had to replace the gauze pads quite frequently. The greatest flow was between midnight and 2 AM, when the gauze pad was entirely pink and very wet, and I changed the pad. At that time, I noted that some blood was draining down my throat (I remember the feeling of blood from my massive nose bleed in Florida). I just prayed that it would stop, and went back to sleep. When I awoke about 8 AM, there had been minimal discharge in the pad, and no further drainage down my throat. Over the first few days, it appeared that more blood was draining from the right nostril. Through the weekend, there were numerous, and sometimes heavy, blood clots from my irrigation, which I started on Friday. However, over the past few days, it has diminished to some threadlike clots, up to an inch long. As instructed, I will continue to irrigate my nose for three weeks.

Pain: I felt very little pain or discomfort up to the weekend (I was quite surprised, and very pleased!). Over the weekend, there was mild to moderate pain, but I was able to cope with only Tylenol (never did take any of the pain killer that you had prescribed). I tried taking a single 500mg tablet, but it was not enough. When I took two tablets, the pain eased. Funny thing, but although blood clots were more numerous from my right nostril, the pain I felt was primarily in the left frontal sinus area. After the weekend, there was only dull pain at most, with no need for Tylenol. To be honest with you, I had really expected a lot more pain. Between your personal skill at surgery, and the new techniques you used, the recovery has been nearly pain-free. Thank you so much.

Resting and energy level: I have spent most of the past six days at home in my PJs, to ensure a good recovery. I only left the house once, to go to Mass on Sunday and thank our Lord. Including naps, I'm sleeping 10 to 12 hours a day. I've been dizzy at times, feeling unbalanced, and much more tired than I had been with my cancer alone. I assume that my energy will return in due time to pre-surgery levels.

I hope the above overview of my recovery will be helpful to you.

I would like to wish you, and all your family, a blessed and joyous Christmas, and a New Year filled with good health, happiness, and much love. Please extend my holiday greetings to all your staff. They are attentive, helpful and very personable. You are fortunate to have such fine people working for you.

With love and thanks,

Joe