

YES, I WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR

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I feel I owe everyone an explanation. This is also practice for me, because I used to create websites. From the end of February through now has been difficult for us. Perhaps our experience will help others. I know other people have much harder problems to overcome. If this helps just one person, I have done a good thing.

THE END OF FEBRUARY 2018

At the end of February this year, I first noticed a problem and didn't know what was wrong. I got up quickly from my chair and noticed that I had some sort of problem moving.

INNER EAR

I immediately thought it was an inner ear problem. I had a lot of ear problems, so that made sense. WRONG

DOCTOR AGAIN

I decided, reluctantly, to go to the doctor.

Went to the doctor's office, even though I had just been. I go every six months to have my blood drawn, for thyroid problems.

POSSIBLE STROKE

Mother helped me with my balance problem and drove. I got blood drawn again and got an order to have a CT-scan. The Doctor said that I might have had a stroke!?!? That sounded serious...I hadn't thought about it being serious. Andy stepped in and took over most of my care. Appointments were made in the afternoons so he could take me.

POSSIBLE MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS

I thought it might be caused by some of the medication I took. IT WAS NOT!

WHEELCHAIR & WALKER

Mom provided Dad's Walker and Wheelchair. I used everything I could. Mom let me know that it would probably be easier for Andy if I would use the Wheelchair, if he asked. I depended on him. Didn't want him to wear himself out, knowing that he would be doing double-duty.

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NEUROLOGIST

I knew I had to see a neurologist. Andy tried to get an answer about when I would be able to see a neurologist - sometime about the middle of May. UNACCEPTABLE! EMERGENCY ROOM I went to the emergency room. More blood work. Saw emergency doctor. Had CT-scan #2. NOTHING WRONG. Except I couldn't walk (I'm in a wheelchair), my speech was slurred, and I can't say that I was really thinking clearly, but was trying. NO ANSWERS. But I did get a neurologist appointment sooner.

NEUROLOGIST

I visited neurologist (in wheelchair) - NOTHING IN CT-SCAN #2.

Neurologist ordered MRI.

Next visit to neurologist (in wheelchair). NOTHING IN MRI.

More blood work ordered by neurologist.

NEW PRIMARY CARE

By then, I needed a new primary care physician. Andy filled out the paperwork. I got the ordered blood work. The doctor called when the blood work came back. (This seems to be normal operating procedure for this office.)

Andy made an appointment for me to see the new doctor. The new doctor/primary-care doctor laid out the paperwork and said that we were going to figure this out!!! She took blood work, and prescribed B12 shots and broad spectrum antibiotics. Later I found out the B12 shots were requested by my neurologist. B12 shots for 4 weeks, then once a month. A B12 deficiency could cause the problems I had.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Blood Results

When the blood work came back the Doctor called. She prescribed a different antibiotic for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The new antibiotics were harsh. I threw up at least twice while taking them. But I was happy that someone had found something wrong. With no problem there is no treatment and I was getting worse. Each improvement became a reason for me to celebrate...My gate was longer...I stopped using the Walker, but I had to hold on to something constantly. I did not have to hold on at all...

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GETTING BETTER

I still can't walk without thinking about it or holding on to Andy, who pulls me at all speeds. I'm talking better. I have trouble typing (this took a while). At least I can enter passwords now. I'm getting better but am a long way from where I started.

CONCLUSION

Still have more Doctors appointments to keep and more blood work to do. The more practice I get; the more I can do. I don't drive. But I'm doing much better than I was!!