

Update on Isabella Brown

Friends and family,

It has been quite awhile since we have been able to send an update on Isabella. Following is a summary of our journey so far:

- ❖ She was admitted to Doernbecher on December 22nd with a diagnosis of ALL, which is the most common form of childhood leukemia. After several weeks on the ALL protocol, she became ill and was sent to the intensive care unit for 10 days. The leukemia had changed form and the ALL treatment she was receiving made it worse. We would have lost her then if not for the quick response of the doctors, Jackie's alertness, and lots of prayers.
- ❖ Her diagnosis is now bilineage leukemia which is a combination of ALL and a less common form called AML. Usually one half the cell lines in the blood get leukemia, but Isabella has it in both halves. This type of leukemia is high risk, which has driven the doctors' decisions as well as our own to give her the most aggressive leukemia protocol. It is killing the fast-growing cells in her body, so she lost her hair, has had sores in her mouth and throat, has tummy pains, etc. The good news is, at the end of the second month, it also lowered the leukemia below the level that can be measured.
- ❖ Isabella just finished her third and last month of chemotherapy at Doernbecher and is mostly home until May 12th, when the transplant conditioning starts. So far, she has done remarkably well and her spirits have been good, but we can see how the long months in the hospital and the treatment are wearing on her. We're glad the doctors are giving her this time off after the chemo before starting the transplant process.
- ❖ We're also happy to be back together as a family again. Jackie and Isabella have been living at the hospital since 12/22 with only two 5 day breaks until now. Diego has been with his grandparents. Dave and Marco have been home in Bend. Since Dave gave Jackie a break on the weekends to get some sleep, we hardly saw each other then either. So, until we go back, we are enjoying simple things like watching the kids play together, having dinner together, watching home shows on TV, and just being together.
- ❖ Ours friends and family have had 6 bone marrow donor drives for Isabella (thank you!), but we are unable to find a matching stem cell donor and so we are going to use cord blood from Europe for the transplant. Cord blood is not as effective as a stem cell transplant so we signed-up for a new protocol which is testing the use of two cords at once. We have a 50/50 chance of being in the 2 cord arm of the study.
- ❖ During transplant conditioning, Isabella will receive very high doses of chemotherapy and full-body radiation over 10 days. The day of the transplant is the

least eventful one: the cord blood will be put in a bag and transfused into her for an hour.

- ❖ For 100 days after the transplant we will be looking for engraftment, which means she is starting to generate new blood cells in her marrow. We will be watching out for graft-vs.-host disease and organ failure. She will have side-effects from the radiation and chemo and there is a high chance the leukemia will return. This period of time will be absolutely critical for her.
- ❖ Please keep her and the rest of our family in your prayers that she may return to health and have a full life without this disease as a burden.

Dave, Jackie, Marco, Isabella, and Diego Brown