
Subject: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [excelav](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2007 16:48:30 GMT
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Hello All,

I just wanted to share a very serious story with everyone to remind all of
ever find yourself, your children, family members or friends encountering
a health problem, please consider getting a second, if not third, opinion.

My friend Chris' 8 year old daughter was recently diagnosed with a brain
that could potentially have affected her speech and motor skills. She underwent
a 7 hour surgery last week to remove it and thank God they believe they got
She recently came out of ICU and is doing incredibly well.

However, the journey/process that Chris & his wife had to go through to get

I just want to share a paragraph with all of you that I recently received
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"Many of you have asked whether there were any symptoms prior to our discovery.
In October of last year Blair started complaining of headaches but we were
told it could not be a brain tumor and was most likely a reaction to the
lice shampoo we were using or a migraine. Three weeks later our pediatrician
told us that it was most likely a neck injury, maybe from soccer. We then
went to see a specialist who reassured us that this could not be a tumor
and was probably tension headaches. In January, when Blair started vomiting
as well as having headaches, we suggested that, if a tumor was out of the
question, meningitis might be a possibility. The pediatrician attributed
her condition to a stomach flu that was going around. When we returned
from Amanda's mother's funeral we insisted on a CT scan which revealed
a one inch tumor in Blair's cerebellum."

I think we all need to consider and learn from their experience, in that
none of us are infallible, not even the so-called professionals. A mistake

Take care, be well ,and God Bless.

Elaine

Subject: Re:OT - This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2007 18:41:53 GMT
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Always get as many opinions as you can.

I was seriously ill when I was 13 (1977). 6 Major surgeries and 108 days in the hospital. The first 5 surgeries were done by two different doctors. During this time I had dropped from 120 lbs to 87lbs. After the fifth surgery, my parents were told that they just had to be patient and it would take time for me to get better. Thank God they didn't trust the Doctors by this time. They took me to another Doc for evaluation, and he referred me to probably the top ENT surgeon in the country at the time. He knew exactly what needed to be done and estimated that I maybe had a month to live without having the correct surgery. One surgery, and nine days later I'm out of the hospital, gaining weight, and basically totally cured. People tend to think Doctors know everything, and evidently, many Doctors also think they know everything. If the doctors I first went to had done some consultation, I wouldn't have almost died. My parents trusted the system and assumed people knew what they were doing. It's not always the case.

Anyway, sorry to ramble on, but if someone has symptoms that don't get better in a reasonable amount of time, keep going to different doctors and be suspicious of "wait and see" answers. Insist on definitive tests, scans, x-rays, etc., even if you have to find a way to pay for them yourself.

Tony

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:45ec3bce\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2007 19:15:34 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I'm in the process of paying off almost \$1,000.00 in medical bills that our insurance won't cover from Mayo Clinic summer before last because these costs are considered to be beyond the *reasonable and customary* fees charged by other diagnostic facilities/hospitals. They billed our insurance company over \$50k and didn't find the problem..... our dentist did a year and a half later.

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Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2007 19:16:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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typo.....make that almost \$10,000.00....etc.

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:45ec6c7c@linux...
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Posted by [rick](#) on Mon, 05 Mar 2007 19:30:11 GMT

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what's even funnier is that the insurance companies tell the doctors what procedures they'll pay for and ones they won't based on percentages of anecdotal occurrences... even if the doctors suspect it's something else and it falls under the expertise of another category (neural, osteo etc.) they won't pay. if the doctors persist in going outside the parameters set by the insurance co's then all payments are suspended. cool system huh.

On Mon, 5 Mar 2007 12:15:34 -0700, "DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2007 02:24:20 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Don't get me started on Insurance Companies-

Beginning in Sept 00, my wife went from teaching back to back spinning classes to being flat on her back for 5 months, after a seemingly innocent incident where she was run over by a large dog. After 2 plus years of slow recovery, we bought a new exercise bike for her that had a seat one inch wider than the previous bike. Within a week, she was flat on her back again in debilitating pain. At that point, we went to our Insurance Co who sent an adjuster out who literally cried when she heard

MJ's

story, assuring us that the \$50k we had spent on treatments (including specialized ones in NY) plus the lost income from her being unable to work would all be recouped. 2 months later we discovered that this adjuster had been pulled off the case and that the claim was being denied. They declared that my wife was faking. 2 years later, after an exhausting legal campaign that culminated in seeing top experts in soft tissue pain disorders at Yale Medical, we settled through a mediator for the original amount that we had all agreed on. Except they had to pay an additional 60K for their (and our) lawyers. According to an industry insider Insurance companies will routinely turn down 40-50% of legit claims, because they know that of that percentage, a predictable amount of claimants will give up. My wife is still far from normal physical function

Rats, I got started

Ted

rick <parnell68@hotmail.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2007 05:35:38 GMT

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JAmes,

It sounds like they thought it was a brain tumor from the beginning.

What made them think that?

I have had a similar experience with getting a diagnosis.

Since I was young I had heart problems.

My family has a history of heart problems.

I went to many doctors complaining of heart issues.

NONE of them believed me.

One of them actually gave me a card to a psychologist.

I was pissed that day.

Eventually as I got older the "possiblility" that

I actually could have a heart problem got higher so the doctors started listening.

I finally got a stress test done and my heart was all over the place with palpitations.

The doctor aknowledged them , but for some reason played it down as no big deal. I could feel these palpitations go by each time they happend...and he sat there playing a game with me like not beleiving I could feel them or something.

He said they were not serious and if I wanted I could take medication. But he said it in a way that was like "well if you are a pussy you could take

medicine". So at least I finally got acknowledgement and was diagnosed with palpitations.

The whole thing of no one not believing me all thru out my young years I believe messed me up mentally in some ways, because I doubted myself and it gave me issues I may not have otherwise had. My point.... If you know somewhere inside that you have a certain problem dont take no for an answer. Go to as many doctors as it takes to get to the bottom of it.

b

"Ted Gerber" <tedgerber@rogers.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.

Posted by [excelav](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2007 08:31:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Read this.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17472281/site/newsweek/>

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Subject: Re: This is the content of an email I received from a friend today.
Posted by [Sarah](#) on Tue, 06 Mar 2007 10:40:19 GMT

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Yes, diagnostic tests are expensive, so thanks in part to insurance company pressure, practitioners are often opting to "keep an eye on it" for a while, and give patients and families optimistic speculation.

My advice . . . never accept "it's probably just . . . " Ask what the worst possibilities might be, then ask how those are ruled out, then insist that they be ruled out. Our health care system is a mess right now, I believe we rank 34th in the world, believe it or not, so patients and their families really need to be their own advocates and insist on good, thorough care.

Sarah Burke RN

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