



Transplant teenager who received plane crash liver faces new crisis

by Christina Savvas.

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A TEENAGER nicknamed the ‘flying liver’ by her surgeon after she received an organ rescued from a plane crash is facing a new crisis.

Kate Trevener, from Shard End, who has twice almost died from acute liver failure, has told how she will need a third major transplant operation as her body is rejecting a second organ.

The 18-year-old was hours from death when she received a liver plucked from the burning wreckage of a private jet at Birmingham Airport by a hero firefighter last November.

Eight days later the liver died in Kate’s body leaving her devastated family fearing the worst.

But another donor was found and Kate underwent a second life-saving operation with an organ that also had to be flown in – despite that flight almost being cancelled due to snow.

Fashion student Kate told the Birmingham Mail: “My surgeon calls me the ‘flying liver’. I think I am very lucky, to go through all of that and still be here fighting.

“To think I was hours away from death needing a liver then the plane crashes and I still get it.

“And then I needed another transplant and the plane couldn’t take off at first.

“I have been very unlucky, but lucky at the same time.”

Kate’s ordeal began weeks before her 18th birthday when she collapsed in the kitchen of the family home where she lives with mum Tracey, lorry driver dad Mike and 18-month old sister Annabel.

And it is far from over.

Kate said: “My body is rejecting the liver.

“Doctors are trying different medication, but it’s likely that I will need to have another transplant.

“I am shocked because of what I have gone through already, but we knew it would be a possibility due to the rare condition that I have.

“And even though the first liver from the plane crash did not work inside me, it kept me alive and gave me a chance to get this far.

“It’s not so much the actual transplant I am concerned about – it’s the recovery time.

“I was one of the fastest people in the country to recover from the first transplant, but after the second one it took months before I got my mobility back.

“A lot of people die waiting for a transplant so I know I am so lucky to have had two already.”

Kate and her family are now urging more people to sign up for organ donation.

Kate said: “I think people need to think more about organ donation. I don’t think people realise how easy it is, all they have to do is tick a box.”

Mum Tracey, said: “It’s looking like Kate will need a third transplant.

“She has gone back to having jaundice and her body is showing signs of rejection.

“Doctors at Queen Elizabeth Hospital are monitoring her liver function weekly.

“Because of the way Kate’s body works she won’t go on the donor register. If her antibodies continue to attack the liver, she will go ‘super critical’ which means she will have between 48 and 72 hours left, which is very scary.

“It’s so important to raise awareness of organ donation.”

A spokesman for Queen Elizabeth Hospital said: “She has ongoing rejection which we are trying to bring under control. We very much hope we can avoid the need for further surgery.

“Her condition is not immediately life-threatening, as it was on previous two occasions so she will have to wait on a list with other patients.”

Friends have organised an evening of clairvoyance to raise funds for the liver unit at the QE Hospital with celebrity clairvoyant Derek Acorah who will appear at Arden Hall Castle Bromwich on November 11.

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-news/2011/10/17/transplant-teenager-who-received-plane-crash-liver-faces-new-crisis-97319-29605393/>