

My Journey Part 3 – Bulletin No 1 (13 November 2020)

Background

For those who having been following My Journey since it began in February 2016 you will recall that I was diagnosed Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in the region of the left tonsil. As a result of chemo and radiotherapy I was placed in remission in August 2016. During My Journey Part 1, 17 bulletins were distributed to my many friends from all walks of life.

In January 2020 this hideous cancer returned after more than 3 years in remission. A further treatment program of chemo and radiotherapy was devised but unfortunately a PET scan in August 2020 found that the treatment was unsuccessful. So ended My Journey Part 2 and 10 bulletins were produced to allow all to follow this journey.

As I commence My Journey Part 3 as a participant in a trial being conducted at the PAH I would like to all to follow hopefully what will be a treatment program to eradicate this cancer for once and for all. I have briefly outlined this program and I will give more detail as the next 12 months unfold in my ongoing treatment.

My New Journey (Part 3)

On Monday 2 November I attended the PAH where I was subjected to a further health check and after a brief meeting with Dr Ladwa I was ushered into the Clinical Trial Facility (CTF) where my ongoing treatment program will take place. This is a special area set aside for all clinical trials and I was surprised to learn that approximately different 30 trials are current at the facility. Before each visit to the PAH, I attend the GCUH for a series of blood tests with the results being forwarded to the PAH. A further 12 blood samples are taken at the PAH for more detailed scientific testing.

Day 1 (Visit 1)

Two intradermal injections of .2ml of AMV002 (*magic juice*) were given on the inside of each forearm and after 15 mins and 60 mins following the vaccination the side effects were recorded and photographed. In my case there was slight swelling and redness around the injection site. Intradermal injection is a shallow injection of a substance into the dermis, which is located between the epidermis and the hypodermis. These injections are rare as most are injections are into the muscle. These injections absorb slowly into the body because of the skins layer's limited blood supply and are frequently used in medical research trials.

I was given a diary to recorded any after effects that may occur in the week following the injection. To date there have been no side effects. During the 7 days before my next visit the redness and swelling remained, which is normal for this type of injection

Day 7 (Visit 2)

Back to the *House of Happiness* (the oncology ward) where the infusion of 1500ml of Durvalumab (*jungle juice*) together with saline solution was undertaken and medical checks were taken during and after this program. I am happy to say that that the *jungle juice* did not cause any health related issues. Immunotherapy is much kinder on the body that chemotherapy. My visits from the Gold Coast to the PAH are an 8 hour day.

Day 28 (Visit 3)

Combines Day 1 and Day 7 program.

Day 35 (Visit 4)

Review of program to date.

Day 56 (Visit 5)

Same as Visit 3.

The trial program lasts for 12 months (total of 19 visits), with only 3 intradermal injections (1.2mls of *magic juice*) being injected in that time. I am excited to be a *human guinea pig* (apparently no longer politically correct) in the expectation of a successful conclusion not only for myself, but for those who unfortunately will follow in my footsteps. In my next bulletin the respective merits of each drug will be explored.

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life

Neil Raward