

Marine in California whose liver failed may need bone marrow

A Marine who received a liver transplant because of a near-fatal infection that developed after his return from Iraq may now need a bone marrow transplant.

Lance Cpl. Christopher LeBleu, 22, has a "high probability" of needing the transplant because he has developed aplastic anemia, which has caused his bone marrow to stop producing enough red blood cells to keep him alive, Loma Linda University Medical Center officials said Wednesday.

The hospital appealed for blood donors with Type O blood to join a registry of potential bone marrow donors so doctors can find a potential match for the Marine.

They also appealed for people to give blood that can be used for additional transfusions for LeBleu, who was stationed at Twentynine Palms before he was hospitalized in January.

LeBleu, of Lake Charles, La., returned from Iraq in September and married his wife, Melany, a month later. She has said that he began feeling increasingly ill in December. By the end of January, his doctors said he was near death from total liver failure. The cause has not been determined.

An unidentified liver donor from New Mexico was found and LeBleu underwent emergency transplant surgery. At the time, his doctors said the Marine was recovering well and had about an 80 percent chance of survival - aided by his youth and good health before his illness.

LeBleu was a rifleman in Iraq for seven months. He was part of a 2,200-man task force that lost 21 people and had nearly 200 wounded in action.

Reference:

Revenge, N. (2005). Marine in California whose liver failed may need bone marrow. Free Republic. 2/23/05. Retrieved on March 29, 2005 from

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