

Surgery #18 in the Books for Jake Dering

Publisher's Note: This is the 4th in the ongoing series of Jake Updates over the last 3 years. Jake's battle is all of ours. Hopefully, in some small way, our support may help the Dering family realize that they are not alone, but surrounded by a community who sincerely cares about Jake and admires his terrific spirit. **-JC**

WRITTEN BY: **CHELLIE DERING**

On May 7th of this year Jake had surgery on his cervical spine. We originally went to see Dr. Krajibich at Shriners Hospital for Jake's severe scoliosis. Through an extensive MRI and CT scan doctors determined that Jake had a 55 degree curve of his spine (very severe). They also found that he had significant narrowing of his spinal column and pressure on his brain stem. The narrowing of his spine was an immediate concern. An injury to this area of his spine would be life threatening to Jake. Therefore in late March they placed him on a medical priority list here in Portland at Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

The surgery was a spinal fusion and nerve decompression of his spine. We were in the hospital for 10 days and during our stay we had a huge surprise visit from the Portland Timbers; Rodney Wallace and Mike Chabala. They came with Jerseys, hats, scarves

and sat on Jake's bed and hung out with him! Jake returned home in a HALO traction device that he had to endure all summer. In my opinion Jake already has a halo over him! On Aug 1st, after 3 long months, they removed the HALO. Jake is now in a cervical neck collar that he has to wear 24 hours a day for 12 weeks. During this entire process Jake consistently demonstrated his "super powers," Bravery, Inspiration and Determination!

We were fortunate to have 2 world class surgeons; Dr. Seldan, head of pediatric neurosurgery at Doernbecher and Dr. Krajibich, an expert spinal surgeon at Shriners Hospital. The treatment of his scoliosis has been put on hold until he heals from this surgery. We will keep you updated as things



Even happy in a HALO!

progress. We want to thank the Tualatin community, family and friends for supporting and loving us through all of this. It is such a good feeling when people smile and say "Looking good Jake."

To follow Jake's progress "like" his JakeSake Foundation Facebook page.

Steve and Chellie Dering have lived in Tualatin for the past 13 years. Steve works for Comcast as the Facilities / Real Estate and Fleet Senior Manager. Chellie works part time as the marketing director for Walton Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine.



Surprise Timber visit by Mike Chabala & Rodney Wallace.



When Jake roots, he roots for the Timbers!