

Salaams Everyone,

There are lots of good news to share!

The appointment with Dr Dexter went really well. he said he was very pleased to see Shoeb bhai and the progress he has made. To me he seemed surprised, and when I asked he said he *was* surprised as he didn't expect him to do so well so quickly. He also said

- The problem near the bottom of his brain/skull (apologies, there were too many medical terms from me to comprehend fully) which was operated on; is gone forever and is not going to trouble him again Insha Allah.
- The problem with his vision is a side effect of the surgery and he doesn't think it's an indication of a further problem. He recommended an optoneurological appointment which I have made and someone would check out his eyes today. It's likely that Shoeb bhai would get most of his lost vision back, at least enough to move around the home by himself.
- His swallowing and speech should also improve considerably with time and patience. He can slowly be introduced to normal food, however Mukti just needs to get it checked out by nurse or someone on duty to make sure it won't cause problems.
- His walking should continue to be improved, and in a few months he may even be able to take steps unaided.
- There was talk of him being sent back to St Josephs, but they couldn't confirm it. Perhaps Jahangir bhai has an update on this from last night? Being at St Joseph would be good for Shoeb bhai because they would provide excellent rehabilitation supports for him and Mukti. The longer he stays at St Joseph the more help he will receive regarding his rehabilitation. Dr Dexter said he may come home by New Year's eve, but couldn't be sure. I was a little confused regarding this cause I was under the impression he was coming home shortly??? Let's see.

Now, the most important part of it all was that **ALL THIS CAN ONLY BE MADE POSSIBLE WITH INTENSE HARD WORK** by Shoeb Bhai and everyone around him. He needs to be motivated, encouraged and cheered on to do the little things for himself **all day everyday**. Mukti **CAN NOT EVEN FEED HIM**, nor do the small chores for him because Shoeb Bhai's muscles have lost their strength due to prolonged unuse and if this continues then he runs the risk of being permanently disabled.

Dr Dexter also wanted us to align our expectations accordingly. He said this progress is not a short term thing. It would take a year or two perhaps. Some of the damages **ARE** irreversible, so he may never be the person he once was; but we must keep on fighting and hoping that he can get pretty damn close. The aim now he says, is to get him to a state where he is not 100% dependent on anyone else. The worst thing apparently is 'down time', i.e. time when Shoeb bhai is depressed, or not motivated. so, that's **OUR** challenge to keep him away from feeling like that.

I have asked for him to send a letter to Shoeb bhais home address detailing the details of his treatment. It should arrive soon. We can include it on the DIMIA application if needed.

Regards

AB's Friend