

Double lung transplant patient leaving hospital

Nine-year-old Darcy Scanlan making amazing recovery

By STEVE PECAR
Staff Reporter

Darcy Scanlan is expected to be released from hospital today, just one month after undergoing double lung transplant surgery at an American hospital.

The 9-year-old Mississauga boy is moving to a Ronald McDonald House nearby the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where he and family members will stay while his recovery is monitored by doctors.

If Darcy's health continues to improve at the current rate, he could be back at his own home

in three to four weeks.

"Everybody is quite amazed by his recovery," Darcy's mother, Kim Scanlan, said yesterday. "He is up and doing things that nobody thought he would be doing for a long time."

Darcy underwent the operation on August 26 to combat cystic fibrosis (CF), a disease that causes breathing difficulties and ultimately death.

The transplant is done to replace the affected lungs and improve breathing, thus increasing chances of survival. While the Hospital for Sick Children is

equipped to perform such operations, Darcy was forced to go south of the border because of a shortage of donors here.

For the past week, Darcy has been able to get out of his bed and tour the hospital and this past weekend, with the assistance of a wheelchair, even had the chance to go out to a local mall and do some shopping.

The boy's mother went on to say that with the new lungs Darcy is experiencing some sensations for the very first time such as full, clear breaths and an appetite.



SCANLAN

"Kids with CF don't eat a lot," she said. "Now it is tough to keep up with him because he wants to eat everything."

Darcy is also experiencing a lot of attention. He has been receiving regular visits from hockey player Jim Paek of the Pittsburgh Penguins and members of the Steelers football team have also dropped in to say hello.

If anything, the amount of attention he has been receiving is what has caught Darcy most by surprise. He doesn't know why such a fuss is being made about him. As a result, he has been reluctant to talk about his condition.

"He just wants to be treated like everyone else and get on with his life," his mother said.

Medically, Darcy is listed in stable condition and has not shown any signs of rejecting the new lungs — a condition that is expected, but can be treated with drugs.