

Brents Kidney Story

About eight years ago I was having a check up at the doctor's and asked him to see if there were any problems in the kidney area, as there was a family history of it. After a few tests it was confirmed that I was in the early stages of renal failure - quite a shock. So, six years ago I started doing dialysis to keep myself alive. Dialysis means spending many hours a week with needles in your arms hooked up to a machine that cleans your blood. It was all very hard for me and my family and especially hard for my music career. I have been on the waiting list for a transplant all that time. To get by, I've done some part-time work and lived on a small pension and a little music work.

The good news is that, on 24 June, I got a call from the hospital saying they might have a kidney for me and to come in immediately. At 6 o'clock that night I was operated on... now my new life has now begun!

I was out of hospital in five days and although a little sore am feeling better than I have in years. I never wanted to go public about my troubles when I was sick and I know some people wondered why my music career had gone so quiet. But now it's a good news story and I want to tell everybody.

While in hospital one of the staff told me that the organ donor's family had asked about my recovery - that was a powerful moment for me to face. I had always known that for my life to go on someone else had to die and some family would lose a loved one. I told the staff member that I was the happiest, luckiest man in the world and to tell the family that I would take special care of their wonderful gift. From now on I fully intend to try and convince everyone I meet to become an organ donor, because I now know what a fantastic difference it can make.

I cherish every day and am raring to go and make wonderful music for as long as I last.

Thank you and wish me luck!

Brent

June 2006