

Colin and Georgina Access to healthcare

Georgina

I think there was a lack of information out there on the internet because they didn't know. We - there's a huge amount that's come on, it's not in medical speak. So I think there's a lot more out there, which is brilliant. It's come on in leaps and bounds. But I think sometimes you can have, when you initially know, you can have too much information, and it can be too frightening and too daunting.

I think the medical profession are very good, but they don't have – they have the knowledge, but they have no idea how anything like this actually effects people. And I think to a certain extent, you just have to carry on and do things as much as you can on your own, if you're able to.

Colin

Can you imagine saying to someone, okay, welcome to the human race. These are all the diseases that you can get and you go, I don't need to know. I really don't need to know. All you need to know is there is information. If you find this happening, go and look for it, but don't get bombarded by all of it. It really it just builds anxiety.

Georgina

But it has to be remembered by medical professionals that it might be very slow developing and it might be a very small, it's affecting a very tiny little bit, but it still has a huge impact. No matter how small, how bad it is or not so bad, it still has a huge impact on your life and how you live your life.

Colin

But generally speaking, unless you want something, and we've been able between the two of us to do it all for ourselves. So we've had very, very little to do with anything formal. Oh and the physiotherapist, she was far more thorough. She asked me about your legs, your arms, bowel movements, the whole lot. So she was very specific about each aspect of it. She's been the first one in all the time we've been coming to her that's actually gone into that.

Georgina

Colin said, when he goes onto the computer or say he's in the garage doing making bird boxes or something just somehow putting his head down slightly, he starts to cough –

Colin

It's like a knife in the throat.

Georgina

Yeah. And so she was exploring that and she's saying about this neck brace and you have used it a little bit. I think to a certain extent that's, that was very, very helpful. I think to a certain extent you try and avoid situations that are going to cause the problem in the first place.

But she had definite understanding. She knew –

Colin

She was the first one –

Georgina

What she's talking about, understood what he meant. I think when the time comes, we'll have to, if we need to, we will have to be a little bit more forceful. I don't know if you go back to go to your GP, have no idea, probably would be the GP's office surgery and then go from there.

Colin

It has been –

Georgina

It's been tiny –

Colin

That much of our lives.

Georgina

I mean, we got an appointment for the second and we went back and he said what are you doing here really? What can I do for you?

Colin

I can't do anything for you. Go away.

Georgina

So this is the reality, this is actually the reality of it. But because of the, the drug trials, to a certain extent, we feel that we've been...

Colin

They cut us off at 70. I'm 72, even though I've been going there since 2013. One of the first people to go there. I was six hours in an MRI scanner. You can do two hours of that, you go insane and every test they've asked for.

Georgina

So it was under 70 with rigorous testing before the people were accepted.

Colin

The only useful part has been blood tests so that it's pointed out the cholesterol, higher cholesterol that's been useful because we've then, my diet has completely changed. We've done everything for ourselves, but we needed that information and also it relieves me, because you can get diabetes very easily and my blood sugars are great.

We have a heart monitor, a heart blood pressure and I've got the blood pressure of a 20 year old. So that's again that's all knowledge and knowing what you're looking at.