

Surgery in Germany for adhesions saves life of area woman

By DARLENE PRINCE
Health Editor

Barb Froelich got her Christmas present early this year.

The 59-year-old, Defiance-area resident has received the gift of good health after six years of suffering from painful adhesions.

Thanks to the persistence of her husband, Leon, a German physician and a story she read in *The Crescent-News*, she is feeling great and looking forward to a new year.

"I'm feeling fantastic, thanks to Dr. Daniel (Kruschinski)," Barb said. She had had problems with adhesions for several years, but suffered from increasing pain during the last one and one-half years as the adhesions grew larger and began pressing against her organs.

Adhesions are scar tissue that forms after surgery. For most people, they never become a problem. But in some cases, they continue growing and cause a great deal of pain. They can even cause death as they squeeze vital organs.

Barb decided to have surgery to remove the adhesions that were causing her so much trouble.

"I had three surgeries in the states to remove adhesions," she said. "And each time they came back even worse with a vengeance. All



Froelich

three doctors told me they would never operate on me again."

While Barb struggled through the pain of her adhesions and surgeries, her quality of life had diminished considerably.

Leon described coming home from work and never knowing until he walked in the door how his wife was feeling that day.

"She is normally up and the door is unlocked," he said. "If the door was still locked, then I knew she was having a bad day."

"I laid on the couch in severe pain for a year and a half," Barb said. Her health was becoming increasingly worse.

The Froelichs read a story in *The Crescent-News* about a Defiance resident who also had suffered from painful adhesions. His adhesions were removed and had not grown back because of surgery done by German physician, Dr. Daniel Kruschinski.

The reason the adhesions did not return was because of a product called SprayGel used after surgery.

SprayGel is sprayed on the tissue after surgery and it prevents the adhesions from growing back. While this product is used in Germany, it has not been approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States.

After reading the story, the Froelichs talked to the man who had had the successful adhesion surgery and then contacted Kruschinski.

"After looking at my records, he said he would be able to help me," Barb said.



Defiance-area resident Barb Froelich recently traveled to Germany for life-saving surgery. Here she is shown with her surgeon, Dr. Daniel Kruschinski.

"We went to the Emma-Klinik, at Seligenstadt, in Germany," Leon said. Seligenstadt is about 23 miles south of Frankfurt.

"That is Dr. Daniel's clinic," Barb added.

Barb had her surgery in the early part of November while Leon stayed at an apartment building next to the clinic.

When he saw her after surgery, Leon said, "I could see the difference in her that quickly. She just looked so much better. They said the adhesions would have crushed her organs within a year."

"We had such good care in Germany," Barb said.

She said one of the clinic nurses came to their apartment twice to gave her vitamin shots after the surgery.

They were especially pleased with the way Kruschinski kept in constant contact with them following the surgery.

While she is grateful for the surgery she had in Germany, Barb said, "At times, I get angry at doctors

here (because) I missed my grandkids growing up. I was on the couch most of the time. That's the only way they ever saw me."

The Froelichs have a daughter, Kim Lantz, and three sons, Greg, Joe and Leon. One son, Shon, is deceased. They also have 10 grandchildren.

Barb credits Leon with never giving up on trying to find a cure for her.

"If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here," she said.

He stood by her side through an almost endless stream of doctor visits, tests and surgeries.

The surgery in Germany cost about \$8,500. Leon said he isn't sure his health insurance will pay for Barb's surgery, but added, "If you don't have your health, you don't have anything."

"It will be nice if the insurance helps some, but I don't care," he said. "What matters is that I have my babe back."

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