

I'm only human...just a woman

Rosy and Clinton are a very caring couple, who have been married for 19 years. He is a tailor. She assists him with hemming and with sewing buttons and runs the home efficiently.

Sadly, only two of their five children are alive now. The first baby died within a week of his birth. The second one was a son, Christopher, who was a normal, healthy child – till the age of ten. Thereafter, his haemoglobin started dropping and he was sickly most of the time. He was diagnosed with Myeloid Dysplastic Syndrome (MDS), where the red cells are destroyed by the marrow. He died two years later.

Then came Princy, a sweet little girl, who was also diagnosed with MDS. Princy put up a valiant and prolonged fight against MDS, supported by her loving family, sympathetic doctors and generous donors who paid for her treatment. In May 2015, she succumbed to her illness and death.

Today, only Jennifer and Kevin are left. Though they are lively, adorable children, Rosy and Clinton are understandably very anxious about them and bring them from Thirupattur to Vellore, even for minor ailments.

Then Rosy started feeling unwell. She began to feel breathless, to frequently fall sick with fevers and coughs and to lose her appetite. However, accustomed over time to putting the children and their needs before her own, she didn't take her symptoms seriously. Ignoring her sickness only made things worse. When her abdomen became bloated and her chest painful, Clinton brought her to CMC Vellore. Doctors admitted the extremely pale, drowsy and febrile Rosy at once. The fluid in her abdomen was tested. X-rays, an ultrasound, a biopsy and numerous other tests followed, but the diagnosis was elusive.

With the family medical history and her anaemia, MDS was suspected and the initial tests were geared towards that. Tuberculosis and malignancy were also counted as possible causes but there was still no definitive diagnosis. Despite being administered strong antibiotics, Rosy's temperature stayed elevated and the abdominal fluid kept re-accumulating quickly.

The light at the end of the tunnel came at the end of ten days, when finally, there was a definitive diagnosis. TB was confirmed and anti-TB treatment was started immediately. Knowing the tragic history of the family, the doctors went way beyond the call of duty to do everything possible to restore Rosy's health and to reunite her with her husband and children. Treatment costs were covered with money from the Emergency Fund, a fund made up of donations from well-wishers.

Rosy responded well to the treatment and soon became well enough to be discharged. Since September, Rosy has been taking the treatment and attending follow-up clinics as advised. Apart from the fact that she still suffers from nausea and a lack of appetite, Rosy is much better. Clinton, who wept openly when Rosy was in the ward, is now all smiles on his beloved wife's return from the brink of death.



Reproduced from 'CMC Pulse', December 2016 issue, with minor changes. (CMC Pulse is the newsletter produced by Development Office for Friends of Vellore.)