

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Julie's Surgery

Julie's back at home recuperating from an emergency surgery last night. She's doing well and isn't experiencing much pain.

The story: On Sunday she developed severe pain in her abdomen that felt exactly like an ovarian cyst she had developed several months ago, but on the other side. She called in to the doctor and they prescribed her some pain killers and told her if the pain didn't go away by Monday morning to come in to the doctor's office. It actually got worse overnight so I took her in first thing in the morning. An ultrasound confirmed that it was another ovarian cyst, and a later, more detailed ultrasound showed that it was twisting her ovary around and possibly cutting off the blood supply to the ovary. The doctor recommended that she have the cyst surgically removed to relieve her pain and prevent any permanent damage.

At about 5pm they put her under general anesthesia and went to work. It was a laproscopic surgery, so there were just two small incisions for the camera and surgical tools. A little after an hour later the surgeon came out and told me everything had gone smoothly. She showed me some photos from during the surgery, too, so I got to see Julie's insides. It was fascinating actually seeing the ovaries and other organs. The cyst was pretty huge, it's no surprise it was causing her so much pain.

I got to go see her less than an hour after the surgery ended; she was already awake and coherent, though groggy and parched. They kept her there overnight just to make sure her body recovered fully from the anesthesia, and by this morning she was eating solid foods and digesting so they let me bring her home just before noon. She has a strong body and spirit so I'm sure she'll recover quickly. Still, she won't be able to go back to work for up to two weeks, which will be tough for her. She'll be able to find plenty of non-strenuous stuff to keep her busy at home though.

Wish her a speedy recovery, she'll appreciate it!

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