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PRESS RELEASE

Blackpool Orthopaedic Team save father of five's finger

A BLACKPOOL man is thanking hospital specialists who saved his finger after he was bitten by a dog.

South Shore resident, Max Tabcart, 54 is praising doctors and nurses after recent 'first class' treatment and care at Blackpool Victoria Hospital saved his left index finger and effectively, his career in IT.

In August 2011 Max arrived at A&E after a serious dog bite to his finger left him in agony.

Commenting on his arrival to the hospital, he said: "After originally washing the wound and putting on a plaster, I arrived in A&E with a very painful hand.

"I was then met by a lovely A&E Matron who cleaned my injury and advised me that further treatment and surgery would be needed and that I would have to stay overnight in hospital."

Being the family man he is, the father of five didn't want to be admitted to hospital, due to his daughter's seventh birthday and a crucial business meeting he was needed for the next day.

Following both events, Max realised there was something seriously wrong when his injured finger became quite painful and he later arrived back at A&E. From there he was transferred to Ward 32 with a severe E Coli infection gained from the dog bite.

He said: "I was in Ward 32 for 10 days, where I received strong intravenous antibiotics and had two operations on my left index finger. These operations effectively saved my digit and I owe this to the excellent staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

"I was very impressed by the level of team work and professionalism, throughout both the day and night shifts on Ward 32. A first class performance from the cleaners, nursing assistants, nursing team and doctors - I have never seen such a dedicated, high performing team"

After the second operation on his finger, Max was discharged from hospital and returned regularly to the Orthopaedic Outpatient clinic.

He said: “The excellent standard of nursing care and treatment continued into my aftercare and recovery when I began visiting the Orthopaedic clinic so they could keep an eye on any improvements or changes to my finger.

“The team were always very friendly, caring and supportive, but unfortunately it was during one of my visits to the clinic that I was told that if I didn’t get the full use of my finger back, then with my consent they may need to schedule an operation to amputate it.

“There are moments in your life that can help define what really matters to you and although this injury may not seem bad on the grand scale of things, this really was a life affirming moment for me.

“Working within the Information Technology sector and being a keen photographer, losing a finger would not only affect how I lived my daily life but it would also seriously affect my career and my enjoyment of life.”

Max went on to receive physiotherapy on his finger and continued to gain support and guidance from hospital staff. A combination of finger exercises and movement tools helped strengthen his finger and he soon began to see some improvement.

He continued: “The Orthopaedic Team really supported me in the rehabilitation of my finger and hand. They inspired me, built my confidence and aided my recovery.

“Being told I could lose part of my hand really motivated me to ensure this didn’t happen and with the help and support from a variety of highly experienced hospital staff, I am now on the way to full recovery and have recently gone back to work.

Max is an experienced IT Program Delivery Manager, putting together delivery teams for Hewlett Packard, supplying global information technology to major UK companies.

He said: “I’m originally from Gillingham and in the 10 years I have lived in Blackpool, I have never had to use the hospital services until this incident.

“The people of Blackpool are fortunate to have such a professional, caring and hardworking team of healthcare professionals, supporting the town 24/7 and 365 days a year.

“Thank you to everyone involved in my treatment, you really have changed my life.”

Mr Paul Dunkow, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: “I was delighted in the way in which Mr Tabart’s finger progressed.

"We were all set to actually amputate his finger immediately after the fairly horrendous dog bite. Due to a combination of surgeon interventions and excellent care, in particular, by the ward staff on Ward 32 and our expert wound care nurses and orthopaedic outpatient department, we were able to save his finger. Mr Tabearth has now made a full recovery and I am delighted for him."



Caption: Max Tabearth



Caption: Members of Ward 32 staff where Max Tabearth was treated.

For further information about this Press Release, please call Chris Cunniff, Communications Officer, on 01253 303059 or email Chris.Cunniff@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk