

Mr. Wisheart.

13. Andrew and I stayed in and around the hospital permanently from that point onwards. Andrew signed off sick from work and as I was heavily pregnant, I had given my job up anyway. We only saw Emma at the weekends.
14. On one occasion Andrew and I had left the hospital to go to Emma's sports day and were called back urgently because Martin required surgery due to one of his infections. Mr. Dhasmana told us that the wound would have to be left open so it healed more quickly. We were very despondent and discussed the situation with Helen Vagoda. My husband was pretty uptight and he asked her where we could get a 2nd opinion about Martin's condition and treatment. She obviously told Mr. Dhasmana about this request and he was quite aggressive with us. He told us that there was no one else as good as he and Mr. Wisheart. Far from placating us, this "telling off" only made us feel small.
15. Martin caught a whole range of infections over the 3 months or so he remained in the ICU: he had septicemia, renal problems, lung infections and jaundice. It seemed that the chest drains and lines were all sources of infection and the longer he stayed on the ventilator the more likely he was to pick them up. We were not given any long term prognosis but it was a question of assessing Martin's condition on a day-to-day basis. We stayed with Martin and were pretty much left to our own devices. The nursing staff were variable. On the whole they were good, but there were some who were young and inexperienced and others who did not seem to be paying attention to Martin's care. On a couple of occasions we had to tell the staff when Martin's chest drains became detached and also had to inform them of any abnormalities in his heart rate. They would not let us look at Martin's notes, although I have to admit that we did read them when they were