



I am a white male 56 yrs. old that went through a clinical trail at University of Cincinnati. I have been positive since the early 80's, matter of fact May 15, 2009 will make 29 years and still kicking.

I was one of the lucky ones, if you really can call it that. But, if no one ever stood up and took a chance where would we be with HIV/AIDS. I have went from the time where there was no drugs to offer period. All everyone knew was, Gay white males were dying from something at an alarming rate. Not to much different then we find today in this battle to find a treatment for the lives of any more.

First I will tell you, I have been undetectable for HIV/AIDS since 1999 and undetectable for Hep C now going on 2 years. Both these happen only after first refusing treatment of any kind, after watching what they done to my friends and partner. I always said, when it's my time I will just laid down and die! Right, somehow in a daze from a temp of 107 degrees I found myself waking up in a tent with tubes going every where. Basically, I had lived in denial and fear for over 15 some years. You have a much stronger will to live then you think, I can't tell you about driving to work that day or returning home, to finding myself laying in that bed with my Doctor saying; I have to be honest, you need to get your things in order, because you are not long for this world. She is still my Doctor today and I thank someone for watching over me.

When the test for Hep C was introduce, my doctor knowing my drug use and my sexual lifestyle I needed to be tested. Since she has taken me from the deaths grip and allowed me to continue living a quality life. So, there was only one question when we got the test results back! That was, what do we do now? Is there a clonal trail I can fit into? What does this mean for my HIV status? Last was how soon can I get into one of these trails and let's see what happens. Remember, this is probably a year into several treatments with different combinations.

I was one chose to use the Interphin and the Riben-----, never was good with these drug names. To put it plain as I can, it was steam right along and lets see what this treatment will do. To this point in my treatment, once started I believe do what ever I could to win this war.

So, I took my first shot at the clinic or should I say I gave myself that first shot and home I went. The first week was a breeze, little flu like feeling, a few hot flashes. But overall, I thought a walk in the park for me, remember before you make such a statement, that there is other possible reactions. The second week was the start of what was a ride from hell. But me being a person who when I have made my mind up there isn't any stopping that train.

By the time my third shot came around, I found myself in the local emergency room feeling like the world just landed on my head and I was spinning wildly out of control. It took to pints of blood and then being hauled to Cincinnati at the clinic. since this is supposed to be a success story of my treatment for Hep C. and it turned out to be in the end.

After, countless pints of blood and tested and more test I continued to go down hill very fast. Along with my health issues, then the mental issues started to surface. I was on Sustvia at the time, so I just thought; Finally a side effect I had heard others talk about, yet never had experiences.

Finally, between living at the clinic and getting all this new blood, and now understand what Pro quid is for, to get you those red blood cells back. In week 14 or maybe 15Th week, they finally decided to take me off all my meds and start adding them back into my routine slowly. Not to drag this on; It is now known that you can not have AZT in any of your drugs reg., because if you do and you are a white person you will be able for the first time to say you are the only TRUE white dude. After, 18 weeks we decided to stop the clinical trail at the time. But for that time of HELL, I can say it was a rough diet to get on, from 175lbs. to 105lbs. in 19 weeks.

Today, I continue to confuse many people and Doctors just how I am...Guess that don't understand; Half of beating any sickness is your positive thinking that YOU CAN..... Maybe a little stealing a very commonly used statement, YES WE CAN.....Undetectable in Ohio