

020202 Ouch

This part should be avoided if you are squeamish

The problem with my eye unfortunately went from bad to worse during the flight from Boston to Frankfurt. As you know, I have a problem with my eyes which is called recurrent erosion. What this means is that my cornea tears at the drop of a hat. Basically, during the flight, the drops to combat the infection in the eye and the dry air of the cabin conspired to dry out my eye. Without the moisture in my eye, my cornea adhered to my eyelid while I was sleeping. All it took was opening my eye and a large part of my cornea was torn off as my eyelid moved. The whole incident is a lot more painful than it sounds.

However, by the time that I arrived in Frankfurt, I could open the eye and see, albeit with a blurry vision. The problem would repeat itself each night in Frankfurt as more and more of the damaged cornea tore off until by Friday, there was little cornea left. The flight to Copenhagen was a nightmare because I was totally blinded in one eye and unable to open the other due to the pain that it caused. Michele was awesome and helped me to my gate. From there I had to slowly make my way to the plane and the off again in Copenhagen. I could look down, so I just followed peoples feet and followed them. Fortunately, I always wound up in the right place.

Classes were not in session last week at DTU, so no one was around. No one except my friend Karsten who met me at the train station and took me home. Thank God he was there. He also took me to the hospital to get my eye checked out since most of the doctors offices had closed for the weekend. It was at the hospital that I impressed the Danish doctors with the degree of damage. They bandaged the eye and gave me an ointment that I have to put in several times a day. Unfortunately, I can not see an eye doctor until Monday when they open. Hopefully, I will be able to get in to see one then.

OK, the bad part is done

All of this could not have happened at a worse time, of course. My classes begin on Monday and I had a lot of things that I needed to take care of upon my return such as paying bills, getting food and getting books. I can not read or write very well and even writing this email has been an effort. Fortunately, I can type with my eyes closed and hopefully spell check will take care of the rest.

However, on the bright side, I am so thankful that this did not happen before or during China. Last week at home would have been a good time, but then again, my health insurance is in Denmark, not Boston. So, at least here I am covered if I can get to see a doctor.

Even watching TV is an effort, so I have mostly been sleeping or sitting and thinking in the dark. I expect to miss my first few classes since concentrating on anything for more than a few minutes, let alone four hours is difficult. My eye still stings, but the pain is nothing like what I was experiencing last Friday. So, I know that my eye is getting better. I will just have to wait as my cornea fully regenerates itself. Hopefully this will not take more than a week or so.

I cant really check emails, so I apologize if I have not responded to you in a while. The reason that I write this to you now is to ask that you please keep the healing of my eye in your thoughts and prayers. I expect complications along the way, but I really need this to heal quickly so that I can get on with my life. Just sitting here is driving me crazy.

Jeff

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