

Rabbi's Column – August 26, 2019

I had thought of telling the whole story, but my strength is not yet up to that. So, bottom lines:

The surgery was successful. The surgeon removed 1) Gall Bladder with huge numbers of marble gallstones inside. 2) As an added attraction, there was a tumor on the Gall Bladder. It took over a week for pathology to clarify this was Stage 1 Gall Bladder cancer. Being removed, it was cured. 3) The unusual portion of the liver bile duct was removed. On-site pathology did not indicate a spread of the cancer to the liver or the pancreas. 4) Lymph nodes in the vicinity of the bile duct were taken away for pathology reports. 5) The two parts remaining of the liver bile duct were attached together. [ALL THIS IS MUCH MORE COMPLICATED TO DO THAN IT IS TO DESCRIBE.] 6) Pathology did connect the cancer of the lymph nodes to that of the liver bile duct. 7) There is another lymph node visible but not reachable without an additional surgery or a very drastic step which appears the same way as the lymph nodes which underwent pathology examinations.

So, I had Stage 1 Gall Bladder cancer and Stage 3A Liver Bile Duct Cancer at the same time and found as part of the same surgery.

Looking ahead – as long as I have home health care for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and a few personal needs, I can only be transported to “Doctor’s appointments, Church and Haircuts” per the Physical Therapist.

In mid-September I will begin Chemo. 2 weeks on and 1 week off, and after 2 to 3 cycles will have the affected area scanned again and will have a better idea of what is next.

So I will be home for the time being. Check with Andrea if I am up to a visit or am busy at that time.