

My husband Gerrad and I received a life changing phone call while we had our 2 sons (2 years old and newborn, at the time) at a local photography studio. The nurse from our pediatrician's office wanted to let us know that Easton (our newborn) had some abnormal results on his newborn screening. All I remember her saying was something related to cystic fibrosis. I couldn't listen to what she was saying.

After many phone calls between myself, Easton's pediatrician, the scheduler at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, WI, and nursing staff at both the children's hospital and Easton's primary care clinic, we had Easton scheduled for his sweat test – the 'gold standard' test in diagnosing CF. We were confident that this would be a once and done. The sweat test would be completed and we would have an answer on the same day. Little did we know some sweat tests are inconclusive. Easton's test came back a few hours later --- INCONCLUSIVE. We had to schedule another sweat test, but the doctor suggested waiting one to two months. I was quite persistent that we would be scheduled for one month from that day. I wanted to know the answer. I needed to know the answer.

The date of Easton's 2nd sweat test came. Again, we waited at the clinic for the results. Again, his test came back – INCONCLUSIVE. The next step for Easton was a DNA blood test. We scheduled his blood draw for August 14, 2014. Instead of waiting for our health insurance to prior authorize Easton's blood work, the pediatric pulmonologist registered Easton on the CF Patient Registry, which meant his blood work would be covered by a research program. YAY!! We were told there was a 60 day waiting period for results from the blood test. 60 DAYS!

75 days later – We received the dreaded phone call we had been waiting for. It was a phone call we wanted SO badly, but, at the same time, we didn't want to know what the doctor was going to tell us.

We had spent the last 75 days preparing ourselves for the answer, but I was still holding onto a little piece of HOPE that Easton's test would be negative.

The blood test confirmed that Easton was a carrier of CF, but it also confirmed that he tested positive for cystic fibrosis.

Easton's CF is a little different than many CF stories because, currently, his digestive system is NOT affected. BUT, he still has CF.

So, here we are -- supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and PRAYING that we can make CF stand for 'CURE FOUND'!!

Easton may have CF, but CF will NOT have him!

Easton has been quite healthy and we plan to keep things that way. He is, in our eyes, a crazy 2.5 year old monster – who loves to aggravate his older brother. ☺