

## COVID 19 VICTIM - SKYPE INTERVIEW

*March 14, 2021*



*Mr Alexandros Pontidis, Age 38, MD, USA*

*Computer Analyst*

**Reporter:** Hello Mr Alex, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to tell your story to our readers about your experience with the coronavirus.

When and how did you find out that you had gotten infected?

**Mr Alex:** Hello to you and your readers.

Well, it all started last October, when my wife (37years old) and my son (6 years old) were having low fever and a cough for a couple of days. We didn't really worry because in our minds we thought that it was some kind of virus going on, since the symptoms were very "light".

Unfortunately, 3 days after they were fine, I got sick. It started with an on-off cough and low fever for 2-3 days. After that, I started really getting sick, with high fever and loss of taste. That was the symptom that made me call my doctor who then told me to go and get tested. So I did, and I came out covid positive.

**Reporter:** What were your feelings when you got the results?

**Mr Alex:** I was shocked and to be honest a little bit scared because at that time hundreds of people were dying in my country from that virus. What helped me cope with this situation was that my family had gotten through it as a usual flu.

**Reporter:** Was it as easy for you?

**Mr Alex:** Not really, luckily I didn't face breathing problems and I wasn't hospitalized, but I was facing fever and strong body aches that prevented me even from getting up from my bed. I couldn't even walk to the bathroom. Although, I wasn't able to eat properly due to stomachache I had the tense of throwing up and eventually a bad case of diarrhea.

**Reporter:** Were you able to eat anything? Were you taking any medicines?

**Mr Alex:** My wife was forcing me to eat healthy meals in order to get vitamins and fluids in my body. The interesting thing about it was that I couldn't taste it but I had a strong smell! As far as medicine, I was taking things out of the counter like vitamins, electrolytes, Tylenol and Robitussin for the cough.

**Reporter:** Didn't your doctor prescribe any specific medicine?

**Mr Alex:** No, my case wasn't critical and these would help me.

**Reporter:** How long did it take you to get better?

**Mr Alex:** It took me 2 weeks to start feeling better and the sense of taste came back after a month.

**Reporter:** Were you able to work at that time?

**Mr Alex:** No, I am computer analyst and I couldn't even keep my eyes open to watch TV let alone being behind a screen all day.

**Reporter:** Were any other members of your family infected by corona?

**Mr Alex:** A month and a half later both my parents got infected.

They both had all the symptoms of the corona such as tremendous cough that prevented them from breathing, high fever, body aches, loss of taste etc.

**Reporter:** Were they in need of hospitalization?

**Mr Alex:** Unfortunately, yes. My father who is 73y.o and has heart disease problems, was hospitalized for 10days. In his case, they only used oxygen and remdesivir medication.

On the other hand, my mother who is 72y.o and had Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, has been hospitalized since the end of November till today!

At first they had to proceed with intubation since she had no oxygen in her body. Three weeks later, they used the ventilator and kept her sedated to avoid any moves that could hurt her. When things started getting better they had to put a center line in her neck in order to get nutrients since she had no veins. The side effects of that procedure could have been to be paralyzed!

To make a long story short she is now dealing with speech therapy as well as learning how to swallow again. Lastly, she is doing physical therapy to get strong and start walking on her own.

It is really upsetting that we can't visit her all this time at the hospital since it is forbidden. We only face time her, trying not to make her cry. That is hard though especially when my son, who she adores, talks to her!

**Reporter:** We would like to thank you for your time and wish you the best and a quick recovery to your mother.

**Mr Alex:** It's been a pleasure. I wish you all, to be safe and take care of each other! Wear your masks and keep your distance. Hopefully, this will be soon a bad memory!

***By Dimitris Koukloumpakos***

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