

Albany man beats COVID-19 thanks to promising treatment

In spring 2021, 54-year-old Shannon Devaney of Albany (pictured at right), had a severe bout of COVID-19 resulting in a five-week hospital stay. Because of a promising new treatment used in his care, he will have the opportunity to meet his first grandchild who is due in early 2022.

“When I woke up in the Corvallis hospital, I was intubated and my hands were restricted,” Devaney remembered. “They told me I couldn’t move because I had tubes in my neck.”

The tubes were circulating Devaney’s blood through a Seraph 100 filter, designed to remove foreign bodies like viruses and bacteria from the patient’s bloodstream.

ExThera Medical, the manufacturer of the Seraph 100 Microbind Affinity Blood Filter, received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2020 to use the filter to treat hospital patients with COVID-19. ExThera Medical partnered with Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center and other hospitals around the nation to



use it for treatment of critically ill patients, with a reported 73% survival rate nationwide among patients whose blood was filtered through the device.

“Our nephrology leadership brought this device to my attention, and together we connected with ExThera to deploy the filter at GSRMC,” said Brian Delmonaco, MD, medical director for critical care services at the hospital. “We are enthusiastic about using this filter in addition to approved therapies, and it’s wonderful that we were able to send Mr. Devaney home to be a grandpa.”

He credits his faith and the promising filter treatment with saving his life. While he is still recovering from COVID-19, he says he feels a little stronger every day.

“They told me it was a last-ditch effort,” he said. “God and this filter saved my life, and they’ve given me a second chance.”