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Life saved - but at a high price

Emergency op rules out Justine's hopes for a double lung transplant

By Kelly-Ann Kiernan

A WOMAN waiting for a lung transplant has had to have emergency surgery to save her life.

But the operation has left Justine Laymond with no chance of the double lung transplant she so desperately needs.

The 33-year-old, who featured in the *Potters Bar Edition* last July, is one of 6,000 people in the UK on the transplant list.

She has the world's rarest form of lung disease and knows that hopes of returning to her hectic life as a street-dancing teacher depend on a transplant.

But on Thursday afternoon Justine, of Byng Drive, Potters Bar, suffered a complete collapsed lung and took the decision to go ahead with the ground-breaking surgery.

Her father Barry said: "They had to do an emergency operation to save her life.

"They have effectively stuck the lung to the chest so it will never be possible to remove it."

He said the surgery, which lasted three-and-a-half hours, was successful but Justine is still under sedation on a life-support machine.

It also means that a single lung transplant is now all they can hope for.

Barry and wife Joanna have been at Justine's bedside with her fiancé Jon.

He said: "It's been very stressful and tiring, it's an experience that nobody we know has ever had.

"It really is a parent's worst nightmare, because we are so helpless."

He added that his daughter was inspirational.

"She's extremely brave, extremely gutsy and positive.

"She has an amazing effect on everyone she meets."

● To find out about becoming a donor or more on Justine's story visit her website at www.justinelaymond.com or to become a donor call 0845 60 60 400.



Justine with fiancé Jon – he has been waiting at her hospital bedside with her parents.

Justine's story broke in the *Potters Bar Edition* in July last year (left)



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