

# New lease of life for Justine after life-saving double lung transplant

By Will Stone



into cysts inside the lungs, which further limits the amount of air.

There is currently no cure for the condition, and the cause of it is unknown.

Justine's first lung collapse was ten years ago, at 22, but doctors had put this down to a common condition. It was only after a CAT scan in April last year that the seriousness of her illness became apparent.

Since that diagnosis, she required oxygen 24 hours a day. Her right lung had completely failed, and she had only 30 per cent lung capacity from her left lung.

Before being hospitalised in February 2006, she suffered numerous collapses of both lungs, and was told that she would not survive unless she was lucky enough to receive a

**My left lung was overgrown with cysts, which made it look like a spider's web.**

## Rare condition caused her lungs to collapse repeatedly

double lung transplant from a recently deceased donor.

That luck came, but only after possible transplants were dashed three times at the last minute on the operating table.

Now, after the successful transplant and six months of recovery in hospital, Justine is back home and is glowing with positive energy and optimism, despite having to spend hours a day taking medication and undergoing tests.

She said: "I tried to make each day of my time in hospital an enjoyable one. I socialised with the other patients and we often played games to keep ourselves occupied.

"My fiancé also came to visit me every day, which helped me see through all the difficult times when I was feeling down and depressed.

"I was never angry with doctors for not knowing sooner how serious my condition was. I accepted that it was rare.

"When I had my first lung collapse at 22, a few of my friends had also had them, so

return to a normal life again, she still has to rely on about 40 tablets a day, taking her temperature and weighing herself daily, as well as taking lung functioning tests, using a stiometer and nebuliser twice a day.

She is also immunosuppressed, which means that if she catches a cold from somebody, she may risk getting pneumonia, from which she could die.

Justine added: "I do have to be careful. If somebody close to me gets ill, it would mean having to stay away from them. I'm also not allowed to drive or go on public transport for the time being.

"But my main concern is to

**If it wasn't for the donor who lost their life, I would not be talking to you today.**

make people more aware of how important it is to be a donor. If it wasn't for the generous donor who lost their life and was willing to save mine because of it, I would not be talking to you today."

Justine's own website can be found at [www.justine.laymond.com](http://www.justine.laymond.com).

ANNE-MARIE SANDERSON



Road to recovery: Justine Laymond is getting used to having two new lungs