Kevin's story

Celebrity chef suffered near fatal embolism

Celebrity chef Kevin Dundon has revealed how he almost died after suffering a rare embolism following a recent surgical procedure.

Speaking on the Ray D'Arcy Show on RTE Radio One, Mr Dundon revealed that he has reassessed his life after the recent health scare.

The Wexford based chef, who runs Dunbrody House in the county, told the host he had been admitted for a procedure to remove his varicose veins. However he was left close to death having suffered two pulmonary embolisms (blood clots on his lungs), following the procedure.

He had ten people in the hospital room with him at one point when he was receiving morphine.

"It was quite serious but I didn't realise how serious it was. I was lying there for three and a half weeks thinking about what I am doing in life. How busy I am and what I am missing in life."

He explained that there was a "one in 4000" chance that you can get this from the procedure for varicose veins.

"It is a flick of blood from the procedure that travels through your veins and sits in your lungs. The next step is that you can actually die. It either goes into your heart or your brain."

He said that on his first night in hospital he was in "so much pain" as ten people gathered around his bed.

"It's very, very serious... you could die... mine was a bi-product of the procedure."

Since the scare, Kevin has reassessed his life by cutting down on his travel to the US. He says he is doing less television work, has quit smoking and spends time with his personal trainer three times a week and he's gotten back in to rowing.

"You told me, (he says to Ray) the last time I saw you, if I was still smoking you were never going to speak to me again."

Passionate about Dunbrody House which is soon to have its mortgage paid off in a few years, Kevin is happy to be spending time there with his family and being there for guests.

"Business is really good. I don't need to do as much outside Dunbrody to keep it going."