



steps

We don't take walking for granted

Emily

Diagnosed aged 8 days
Treatment to date: Failed
Pavlik Harness, Failed
Closed Reduction, Open
Reduction with Bi-Lateral
Tenotomy

Emily's Story

Emily was born on 22nd May 2008 by caesarean due to breech presentation; she had been in the breech position since week 20 and hadn't moved at all, I refused a manual turn (ECV) as I couldn't get my head round the benefits when our baby appeared 'comfortable'.

Emily was diagnosed with bi-lateral dislocated hips at 8 days old. She was diagnosed by Mr. Bass at The Countess of Chester where we had our first ultrasound and we were devastated. We knew it was fixable but we felt at rock bottom when the harness she was put on at Alder Hey at 11 days old didn't seem to be working and they were talking about surgery. We had the harness on for 3 weeks and we were told to keep it on 23 and a half hours a day.

I spoke to her Consultant on the phone around this time (she was 4 weeks old) to clarify the situation and he said because there had been no improvement from one scan to the next, their protocol was to abandon the harness and move onto the next step which is the plaster. I said I thought this was all a bit quick but he said they could tell after 3 weeks if it will work and in Emily's case they felt it wasn't.

She went for surgery at Alder Hey on the 20th August. She had an arthrogram with Mr. Garg which showed tight tendons and therefore the closed reduction and plaster didn't take place. Her Consultant went through it all and following this she had an open reduction, bi-lateral tenotomy on 27th September 2008, she will be 16 weeks old. She was originally booked for the 10th October but he rang me at home and moved it forward as there was a theatre slot and his colleague Mr. Bruce was available to assist.

I have to say I feel Emily's early diagnosis was partly down to my paranoia about her legs as I too had been breech and whilst my hips were ok (as far

as we know) I had problems with my left leg which had got stuck. I asked would someone check her hips at my pre-op and the Consultant said it was a matter of course for breech babies.

The paediatric doctor came to check her over at 48 hours old and that's when they heard the right side click. We got our ultrasound appointment through when she was 6 days old and her first Consultant appointment 2 days later.

Since her diagnosis I have asked her Consultants LOTS of questions. I asked if it could be avoided and they said no although admitted there could be a hormonal link. He said there was no way of telling in the womb and gave the reassurance that there was nothing I could have done. He agreed that a manual turn wouldn't have been a good idea possibly because of the pressure and I was worried that as she was born legs first could this have caused it? But again I was reassured you couldn't physically do this, it is a developmental thing.

Obviously we have been heartbroken as it isn't what you want for your child, but I'm all cried out now as it doesn't help her and, it **can** be fixed, we've just a rocky road ahead. But we are learning we are the 'lucky' ones as her diagnosis was so early.

All together it's 10 months of treatment but hopefully at the end she will hop, skip and jump with the rest!



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