



steps

We don't take walking for granted

Faith

Diagnosed aged 3 years 1 month

Treatment to date: Open Reduction with Femoral Shortening and Acetabuloplasty Right Hip

Faith's Story

On 10th June 2008, Faith was diagnosed as having bilateral DDH. She was 3 years and 1 month old at this time.

Faith was born 16 days overdue with the aid of ventouse. She was declared to be normal at birth and the hip test carried out by the paediatrician before discharge from hospital was circled as normal in her red book. Her 8 week check at the doctors was normal as were subsequent checks by her health visitor.

In March 2008 Faith was seen by a doctor at A&E as she would not bear weight on her right leg and was complaining of ankle pain. The doctor diagnosed synovitis of the right hip joint and said it would get better with time and to give Faith Calpol and Ibuprofen for pain relief as required.

In April 2008 Faith had a slight limp which I thought was an after effect of synovitis. Faith's nursery were concerned by her uneven gait and suggested I seek further medical advice. I took Faith to see a GP who examined her including abducting her hips, observing her walking and checking her leg length. He told me to take her away because there was nothing wrong with her.

A children's physio who happened to be visiting nursery to see another child briefly examined Faith and advised I seek a referral to the Children's Physiotherapy Service. A Health Visitor made the referral for Faith and following a thorough examination Faith was referred to Birmingham Children's Hospital to see Mr. Bache, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Faith was x-rayed and thoroughly examined at Mr. Bache's clinic and a diagnosis of bilateral DDH was made. Faith must now undergo open reduction, femoral shortening and acetabuloplasty on each hip. These surgeries are due to take place on 15th September and 3rd November 2008.

My fiancé Alex and I were totally unaware of DDH prior to Faith's diagnosis but now feel very well informed and prepared mainly thanks to Steps charity, and their parents' forum which we joined, thanks to Mr. Bache advising us of their existence.

Having read the Baby Hip Health leaflet given to us by Steps, there seem to be indicators in this leaflet which apply to Faith but which we were unaware of prior to her diagnosis:-

- Faith is a first born female.
- Faith was diagnosed at 13 weeks with plagiocephally which Mr. Bache pointed out to us, could indicate she was in a squashed position in the womb
- Faith walked on tiptoe before walking independently and still does on occasion.
- Faith has always waddled since she began walking at 16 months. As she has always walked like this we thought nothing of it.

Our whole family have been emotionally devastated by Faith's late diagnosis DDH. Alex and I love our daughter so much and it is very harrowing to know that she now faces 2 major operations, 13 weeks in a hip spica and intensive rehabilitation therapy after the spica is removed. Faith, like most 3 year olds loves running around and being very active and it is so sad for us to know her independence and mobility are being taken away from her because her condition has been missed until now. If Faith had undergone an ultrasound scan of her hips when she was newborn I'm positive her condition would have been detected and there would be no need for major surgery.

www.steps-charity.org.uk

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