



Birth Injury- infant Maggie's Story

To whom it may concern,

My daughter, Magdalaina, was born via an emergency c-section. During this process she was born without a heartbeat and it took the doctor 19 minutes to revive her. My husband and I were informed that because she went 19 minutes without oxygen she had major brain damage and likely would not survive. She had no muscle tone and the doctors and nurses were in the process of starting to do Cold Therapy on her. We were told that this was Magdalaina's only chance of surviving and minimizing her brain damage. She was immediately flown to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. They told us that she would never survive the flight, she did. They continued to tell us that Magdalaina's quality of life would be so poor that we should just "pull the plug" and allow her to die peacefully in our arms. My husband and I had faith that God put her here on this earth for a reason and we decided to accept Magdalaina as she was. Five days after my daughter's birth she was diagnosed with Subcutaneous Fat Necrosis. This is a very rare condition in post mature newborns that develops when the fat cells die and cause very hard areas all over the body. Magdalaina had 85% of her body covered in hard spots that caused her a lot of pain. She was treated with a round of steroids (this is the only treatment available at this time) for three days. We were told that this condition would resolve on its own within six to twelve weeks and that the hard spots would hopefully disappear.

At five weeks old she had minimal brain activity and we were allowed to bring her home with a feeding tube and oxygen. Magdalaina was able to get off of the oxygen support soon after getting home but she was still unable to take a bottle or nurse and continued vomiting with every feeding. Soon after arriving home a friend referred me to Susan Rodriguez at Rapid Recovery Hyperbarics (www.hbot4u.com). My friend told me that Susan has had a lot of success working with brain injuries in young children and children with Cerebral Palsy. After talking to Susan several times on the phone, my husband and I decided that we would go to California and start HBOT treatments with Susan. I thought that my daughter seemed like a perfectly normal baby when we arrived in California and I was just hoping that these treatments would help her be able to drink from a bottle and stop vomiting and choking. But after the first treatment, I noticed a difference in Magdalaina, her movements were smoother, not as spastic as before. After the second treatment, she started to take a bottle. After the third treatment, she quit vomiting and choking; she would just spit up occasionally like a normal baby. By the time that she had seven treatments she was taking her bottle for all of her am feedings and we were just using the feeding pump at night. Magdalaina's fat necrosis started to disappear as well, with the hard spots getting softer and smaller every day. Magdalaina received just 16 HBOT treatments. It brings tears to my eyes as I think about the baby that we arrived at the clinic with and the perfectly normal, happy baby that we brought home. I may have thought that my daughter seemed normal and healthy when we first started the treatments but the truth of it is that my daughter changed dramatically because of the HBOT treatments, and we have continued to see improvements while we have been

home with her. She no longer has a feeding tube and is nursing full time, her fat necrosis has completely disappeared and she is a very smart baby who enjoys making lots of noise and communicating using Mmaa, Ddaaa, and Bbaa. She even talks on the phone and responds to questions! She is also rolling over all of the time and scoots around on her chest with her bottom up in the air. She is never in one spot for long and enjoys sitting up in her Bumbo seat! I thank God everyday for the miracles that He performed in my daughters life! And I thank God for Susan and her willingness to do His work! Susan, you are a sweet wonderful person and a wealth of information! Thank you for all you did for us! This was a great "investment" in our daughter's future and I would recommend it to any one with similar circumstances. If you ever want to use me as a reference, feel free to give out my number or email address.

Blessings,
Emily, Mike and Magdalaina L.