



PID is Primary
Immunodeficiency

PLEASE DIAGNOSE
CAREFULLY

Noah Rodgers Case study

Noah was born in December 2004 and at only 12 weeks old he fell very ill with pneumonia. His parents took him to the local hospital A&E department where he was given a chest X-ray, admitted as an in-patient and prescribed some antibiotics.

Noah's parents were obviously very worried that their young baby had been so ill but also relieved when he seemed to respond to the antibiotics and was allowed to return home. Nothing had prepared them for the later episodes of illness that Noah suffered.

At eight months old Noah became ill again and developed a lump in his groin. "Noah was very upset and cried if the lump was touched or if he tried to crawl. It was obvious that the lump was causing him a lot of pain. I thought it might be a hernia so once again I took Noah to the GP and he also thought it was a hernia. We were advised to then take him to the children's hospital where they diagnosed the lump as an abscess" explained his mum, Caroline Somers.

Noah then underwent an operation to remove the abscess in his groin and stayed in the hospital overnight. Although the abscess had been removed the healing process took several weeks and Noah didn't start to crawl again until he was about 10 and a half months old.

For the next 10 months Noah appeared to progress well and his health seemed to pick up apart from a few chest infections and skin rashes. However at around 18 months the situation changed again following a foreign holiday. "Noah suddenly got very poorly. He had a temperature that was in the 40s and his breathing was very slow. We took him to the children's hospital and they put him on more antibiotics. They also took some blood tests that indicated traces of pneumonia, tonsillitis, mumps, and glandular fever. He was also found to be anaemic" said Caroline.

Noah stayed in hospital for a few days until he improved. One of the doctors that treated him mentioned that Noah might have low immunity and this could be why he was suffering from these infections. He also said that it might be worth running some further tests again when he was well but according to Caroline nothing more was done about it.

Between 18 months and 3 years Noah continued to suffer from minor infections including another abscess that developed on his bottom and his front teeth going rotten.

At just over three years old Noah became very ill again. He began running a constantly high temperature, was lethargic and just wasn't interested in anything. Caroline explains "When I took Noah to the GP he said my son was suffering from a virus and suggested I give him ibuprofen and paracetamol suspension at regular intervals. I went home and did this for several days but his condition just didn't change. In the end I took him back to the local children's hospital. I got told the same thing there – that Noah was suffering from a virus."

If you would like to get involved with the Campaign, or share your story, or for further details and images to use with press materials please contact the Campaign Media Relations on the email below or call 01273 601996 x25 / x22

WWW.ISITPID.COM / EMAIL: ISITPID@OYSTERHC.CO.UK



PID is Primary
Immunodeficiency

PLEASE DIAGNOSE
CAREFULLY

Noah's symptoms continued for several weeks and in the fifth week a lump swelled up in his throat that the GP suspected was tonsillitis. Noah was prescribed some antibiotics and a few days later a second lump appeared. Caroline took Noah back to the A&E department of the hospital and he was seen by a paediatrician who took various blood tests including one that confirmed that Noah was suffering from chronic granulomatous disease (CGD).

"When I finally received Noah's diagnosis I was just relieved that they had finally found the cause of Noah's illnesses" explains Caroline. "Up until that point I had felt that the doctors were not listening to me even though I knew something was wrong. I remember my GP saying at one time that Noah's infections were being caused by 'gremlins in the blood'. I felt frustrated at this comment because if they aren't sure what is wrong they should refer you to another doctor that might know."

Once Noah had been diagnosed with CGD he was referred to a consultant immunologist. "Dr Hackett at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital gave us a very good explanation of what CGD is and how it can be treated. He sent Noah for a MRI scan and found abscesses in his liver, lung and stomach. These were dealt with by changing Noah's antibiotics and the abscesses eventually disappeared. Noah is now on two types of antibiotics permanently to control potential infections" said Caroline.

According to his mum Noah is now a very different child. He is re-gaining the weight he lost, is much happier, looks healthier and is more energetic. Noah now attends playgroup every week day morning and really enjoys playing with other children.

"I consider Noah to be one of the lucky ones. He was diagnosed at a fairly early age and fortunately, apart from some lung scarring, he hasn't suffered too much damage. We try to carry on as normal and I have even managed to start a part time job at the local hospital at weekends since Noah's treatment is going so well. However, I am also aware that there are a lot of other sufferers out there who have had to live with their condition for longer before diagnosis and this has affected their health in a worse way."

If you would like to get involved with the Campaign, or share your story, or for further details and images to use with press materials please contact the Campaign Media Relations on the email below or call 01273 601996 x25 / x22

WWW.ISITPID.COM / EMAIL: ISITPID@OYSTERHC.CO.UK