



Hanna

Hanna began having seizures when she was 3 ½ months old. She was eventually diagnosed with a cortical dysplasia in the left hemisphere (some doctors also referred to it as a migrational abnormality). After trying various medications, the seizures were not being controlled and her development was falling farther and farther behind her peers.

When her neurologist brought up the subject of a hemispherectomy we could not imagine having such a dramatic procedure done to our daughter. However, after months of research, prayer, and talking with other parents whose children had had a hemispherectomy we set a date for surgery.

Hanna was 19 months old when she had a left hemispherectomy at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Six months later she developed hydrocephalus and needed a shunt placed.

Once all anti-seizure medication was taken away the seizures returned, but much milder and less frequent than before surgery. As long as she takes her medication she remains seizure free.

We have no regrets about having had the surgery. Hanna is now a second grader, who loves to run and play with her brothers, has a crazy sense of humor and is learning to read, spell, and do math – things we never dreamed would be possible.

Doug and Jill