

Ending Epilepsy - Brooklyn's Story – soundbite transcripts

SOT

Taryn Johnson, Brooklyn's Mom

“It just came out of nowhere, so it was frustrating,” recalled Taryn Johnson, Brooklyn’s mom. “We couldn’t find answers. It was heartbreaking because she couldn’t have a normal childhood. It’s just like a constant worry. You’re always on alert.”

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Taryn Johnson, Brooklyn's Mom

“Between her medications and her seizure activity, she was sleeping probably 17-18 hours a day. She didn’t really have much of a childhood, because I would always be asking her, ‘Are you okay? Are you having a seizure?’”

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Dr. Andres Maldonado, OSF HealthCare INI Neurosurgeon

“Without surgical intervention, it is very possible that she would have continued with seizures for the rest of her life.”

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Dr. Andres Maldonado, OSF HealthCare INI Neurosurgeon

“We can very accurately tell where the seizure focus is, and then after we find enough data, we gather enough data telling us where those seizures are coming from, we remove the electrodes and the patients can go home the next day.”

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Brooklyn Johnson, Epilepsy Patient

“It was scary and also exciting because I was going to get my seizures out of my head.”

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Taryn Johnson, Brooklyn's Mom

“With the reassurance between Dr. Maldonado and the rest of her neurology team, I was very much at ease. They explained in great detail what was going to happen.”

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Taryn Johnson, Brooklyn's Mom

“She has been able to start school again, she has been able to go out and play with her friends, with her brother, and actually have conversations,” smiled Johnson. “Before it was just like yes or no answers. Now she is able to explain how she is feeling, not just with anything going on with her seizures, or no seizures at this point. She is just able to communicate a lot better. She is able to form those thoughts and get them out and talk to us. It’s just been really nice, and it’s like she can be a kid again, and I missed that.”

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Dr. Andres Maldonado, OSF HealthCare INI Neurosurgeon

“That is exactly one of the main goals for this type of procedure, to give them back that opportunity to enjoy their family members in a healthy way, without the suffering of the seizures that epilepsy can cause.”

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Dr. Andres Maldonado, OSF HealthCare INI Neurosurgeon

“Over time, the number of seizures really has a significant negative impact on the brain function, particularly on the neuropsychological development, especially in kids.”