



Théo Gallant, age 2

Suffering from tuberous sclerosis complex

ENFANT SOLEIL FROM MONTREAL

“Nothing prepares us to see our child bedridden, intubated, hooked up and suffering... For parents, this is the worst. But if Théo thinks he can accomplish anything in life, if he manages not to feel different, we will have fulfilled our mission.”

Théo was only three months old when he suffered seizures for the first time. He was quickly transported to the CHU Sainte-Justine where the diagnosis was promptly given. At the time, his parents did not realize the seriousness and significance of this announcement. They thought they could just go home with their baby and a prescription for medications. But unfortunately, not only would they not be bringing their little one home that night, but they were also going to have to learn to adapt to a whole new life of uncertainties and hardships.

Théo was suffering from tuberous sclerosis complex, a genetic disease characterized by the development of benign tumours on organs, such as the skin, brain, kidneys, eyes, heart and lungs. In his case, the two hemispheres of his brain are affected, and the disease is causing severe epilepsy, which resists treatment. He can suffer from 50 to 100 seizures a day.

At 18 months, his condition required a first surgery during which a quarter of his brain was removed to try to reduce his epileptic seizures. When he woke up, he had lost half his vision, and his epileptic seizures came back in force. Two weeks later, he had a second

operation to implant electrodes to more accurately determine the specific areas that were causing the epilepsy. Following this surgical procedure, he contracted bacterial meningitis and promptly underwent another operation. He was back to square one: he was still having several seizures a day. The young boy's parents had to make a decision: whether or not to consent to a functional hemispherectomy of the left hemisphere, which would leave him paralyzed on the right side and require him to undergo a long rehabilitation process to have any hope of recovering his mobility. This procedure is expected to take place in the spring of 2019.

Théo's future is uncertain. It is a terrifying condition, and his parents have had to learn to live with uncertainty. More than ever, mom and dad are teaming up to face this difficult situation and are trying to enjoy all the little joys even at his bedside in the hospital.

Théo's parents join us in thanking you for being there for him and all sick children in Quebec.

Catherine Gratton and Jean-François Gallant

Little miracles don't happen on their own...

Visit operationenfantsoleil.ca to learn about the journeys of all the province's Enfants Soleil through their profiles and videos.

Would you like to get involved? • Contact us: 1 877 683-2325 • oes@operationenfantsoleil.ca