



Chloé Lacasse, age 4

Suffering from Hemimegalencephaly, dysphagia, intractable epilepsy and cerebral palsy

For Chloé and her family, Opération Enfant Soleil is a very real support in dealing with illness. Your donations allow them to focus on the essentials.



Everything was going well until that May morning when a first, sudden attack of seizures led to the six-month-old's hospitalization. The doctors at Hôpital Fleurimont found a global developmental delay in the little one and referred her to Neurology at the Montreal Children's Hospital. A battery of tests revealed that she had epilepsy. Unfortunately, the medications given to her failed to provide relief; her epilepsy was intractable. When she was fourteen months old, because of the damage caused by her many seizures, the decision was made to go ahead with a delicate operation: a functional hemispherectomy. The left side of the toddler's brain was going to be "disconnected." This was a big decision for Ashley and Claude, Chloé's parents. They were upset and anxious, but the very survival of their child was at stake.

Before the operation, Chloé was already suffering from cerebral palsy, which affected the left side of her body, and dysphagia, which greatly hindered feeding her. The operation unfortunately caused the paralysis of her entire right side and considerably worsened her condition. Six months of intensive physiotherapy, occupational therapy and ergotherapy were then used to reduce the effects. Despite all these efforts, she was refusing to drink, and a gastrostomy was necessary to enable feeding her.

Despite the operation, she still had absences. The epilepsy was resistant to medication, and the doctors came to the conclusion that another operation was needed. This second hemispherectomy did not produce the desired results. A third major surgery was inevitable. A few weeks before her second birthday, the left hemisphere was completely removed from the little girl's brain.

Chloé is strong—incredibly strong. Through her hardships, she keeps smiling and holds on. She continues to make great progress on the motor and verbal levels. Unfortunately, she has almost a dozen seizures daily. Several drugs that could provide her with relief are in trial, but her greatest resources lie within her and in her family's love.

Chloé's family joins us in thanking you for being there for her and all sick children in Quebec.

Ashley Brus, Claude Lacasse, Mackenzie, Abbygail and Madison

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

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