

Cerebral Palsy

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CEREBRAL PALSY

In this paper I will talk about Cerebral Palsy and its effects on the human brain and body. I will relate some of the parts of my paper to my actual disability. I will also be discussing the cause of my disability and the effect it has had on my life.

In the 1860s a British surgeon named William Little witnessed the first few cases of CP. He stated, " During the first few years of life the children he saw had trouble walking, crawling, and grasping objects". (UCPF. 2001) He also noticed that even though the children did not get better they didn't worse, and for a few years this disease was known as Little's disease. Little also thought that " the cause of CP was due to a lack of oxygen during birth", and "as a result the people he saw with CP were mentally retarded". (UCPF. 2001) However, in 1897 Dr. Sigmund Freud had a different idea. He thought that " the people he saw with CP had more than just mental retardation." (UCPF. 2001) However, I got my CP at birth due to a brain injury I was born prematurely at 2 lbs. 6 oz. I not only had to have extensive brain surgery when I was born, but I can honestly say that if I had not received several blood transfusions I probably would not be here today.

Cerebral palsy affects the brain by cutting off the signals for my body to walk. It also causes me to not have very good use of my left hand. The following statement characterizes legs contractors " if muscle tone is too high or too tight, the term " spastic"-stiffness of the muscles-is used to describe the type of CP which causes the contractors". (The contractors have acquired me to have a lot of therapy on both my legs and my left on. In therapy I do many things such as swim, get stretched, work on my balance, play catch to not only work on my posture bought on my hand eye cordination skills. I use the

exercise machines when I go to therapy to try to build up the strength and my legs and hands. When I was young, I also tried to help fight my contractors by going in and having Heel Cord Lengthening Surgery when I was five years old. Which is where they went in and tried to cut my heel cords to try to lessen the contractors. Sadly after the procedure had been performed and completed on me my parents and I found out that I was too old for the surgery at that time. Then I heard the doctors say that he thought I would never walk, but I never stopped hoping that I would someday walk.

There are many kinds of CP in the world. I have spastic CP, but I am also triplegic (which means that only three limbs of my body are affected). Some of the other kinds are Quadriplegic and Hemiplegic CP. Quadriplegic affects all the limbs of the body and Hemiplegic.

There have been many new discoveries in the research of CP. In the 1980s the government did a study on 35,000 births and the result was that only 10% of those people who were studied developed CP. The startling end to the research was that no one-thing could be associated with the cause of the disability. (RPG. 2000) In fact a lot of things could be associated with the cause of CP, for instance a person could have a low birth weight when they were born or in my case a person just could have had a brain injury at birth. Whatever the reason I'm sure that someday there might just possibly be a way for me to walk on my own two feet.

My life has not been an easy one with my disability. I remember sometimes at school when I would watch all the other kids playing, and strongly wish that I could be out there enjoying the fun with them. However, through the years I have learned to just

roll with the punches that life gives me. I have to admit I have been through every situation that there is to face in a wheelchair. Not being able to go up certain sidewalks, going to certain places, or do certain things, but I always try not to let jealousies rule over my entire life. I also would have to say to anyone that not only has CP or any other disease, that sure life may be more difficult for you, but as they say " there's always a silver lining to any great clouds that you may encounter". I believe that as I said who knows what can happen to CP research in the year or even 10 years maybe all the people on the world with CP will have giant robots that we can all walk around in, and I'm just not saying this about CP I'm saying it about every disease out their there will be advances and we will stop these horrible diseases that we are encountering right now like AIDS, and HIV I know that they will be defeated someday.

In my battle with CP I know that it is tough, but with the support of my friends and family I will get through it. My mom and dad are two of my many supporters they know that it is hard for me but all they've ever wanted for me is to be independent and happy which as you can imagine is very hard to do. Jeff Crow is another one of more supporters he is my physical therapists, and we are very good friends. I think that he is funny smart and cool and I also like him because he looks outside the chair and wants to spend time with the boy in it not just the chair and I think that it is very nice of him to think of me that way.

CP Facts

1. CP is the most occurring physical ailment in the United States.
2. CP is not progressive, and you cannot catch it from someone.