

Sariah

“ At my weakest time when she was having a seizure...I couldn't help her and I couldn't kiss that... away. And they kissed it away. ”

- Barbi Moreno, Sariah's Mom



Have you ever experienced a seizure? Most of us haven't. For Sariah on the other hand, a young teen in the Fresno area, seizures were all too common – occurring as frequently as twice a day.

Sariah was born with an interesting port-wine stain birthmark on her forehead. At first what did not seem concerning turned out to be Sturge-Weber syndrome, a condition that prevented Sariah's brain from developing normally.

As a result, Sariah began experiencing seizures as young as five months old. The seizures were frequent and powerful for 13 years. Clearly, this dramatically impacted Sariah and her family's life. Schooling was difficult, a vacation was impossible and small things like growing up were being stunted because of her seizures.

Struggling to find the best solution, Sariah and her family came to Valley Children's. The family met with Dr. Cesar Santos, Medical Director of Neurosciences and Neurology. After monitoring her and looking at her EEGs, Dr. Santos explained there were options that could provide Sariah a life she could thrive in.

"I said it doesn't really need to be like this," explained Dr. Santos. "The only thing that the right brain right now is doing, is causing the seizure, and when it causes the seizure, it inhibits the left brain which [functions normally]."

Since birth, Sariah's brain had not developed normally. Since the right side of her brain wasn't functioning properly, Sariah's brain started reorganizing itself, ultimately beginning to transfer certain functions to other areas of the brain. This ability, known as neuroplasticity, led to Sariah's left side of her brain taking over normal functions, leaving the right side purposeless and merely causing seizures and interrupting the left side.

On November 2, 2018, Sariah underwent a six-hour procedure where the two sides of the brain were disconnected. This allowed the left side of the brain to completely take over.

Thanks to the neuroscience team at Valley Children's, Sariah is now living seizure free.

Futures Worth Fighting For.

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