



Sometimes rough is not that bad...

Rosalba Calleros, TxP2P Staff

Every summer, we try to plan something fun to do with family and friends. It could be a quick trip to the beach and camping under the stars or just visiting some places in town where my teenage son, Alan, and his toddler sister can have some fun together. This summer, our biggest plan was a trip to Galveston; however, this trip was not for fun.

About 3 years ago, Alan started having pain in his left hip. I knew he had subluxation, dislocation and dysplasia in both hips but it never caused any pain so surgery was not needed. We didn't know if his pain was muscle or bone related so we tried some procedures like physical, aqua and electro therapy, Botox and Phenol injections, oral and intrathecal Baclofen therapy (ITB), and the selective percutaneous myofascia lengthening procedure (SPML). I was really hoping that one of these could alleviate his pain but we ran out of options and everything was pointing to be bone related. In other words, Alan had to go through a very painful surgery to stop the pain he has been in for the last three years.

A few weeks before surgery, Alan's pain was getting worse and he was losing mobility day by day. He was not the same social and happy boy he usually is. He started losing his enthusiasm and he started asking to just let him stay in bed. I could feel his pain in my heart and what I was feeling was excruciating. I tried to avoid this surgery for the longest time but I knew we just had to get it done. So, we made arrangements and scheduled his femoral rotational osteotomy in Galveston.

As the surgery day was approaching, I was feeling so many mixed emotions: I was so worried and vulnerable... but at the same time, I was feeling hopeful and happy just by thinking that this surgery would let my son finally get relief, be pain free and more comfortable. I understood I was not really afraid of surgery, per se, since it was not his first one and I knew it was far from being an extremely dangerous procedure. However, I was very afraid of his recovery. I couldn't stand the idea of putting my child through so much more pain than what he was already feeling.

So, Alan and I drove to Galveston the night before his surgery. We decided to have a "Mom & Son" date. We went to the movies and got his favorite milk shake. Even though we had a lovely night, his eyes were yelling at me, "It hurts, mama!" That night, I was glad we were closer to end his pain despite the painful recovery coming up.

The next morning I wore my "strong mom" look - even if I didn't want to. Surgery lasted 6 hours and we spent 5 days in the hospital away from home. Recovery was as I expected it: draining and extremely painful, even after taking pain killers.

Texas Parent to Parent

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: www.txp2p.org ★ Email: info@txp2p.org

The worst moment was one night when Alan told me, "I just want to sleep forever." For a moment, I doubted if I had made the right decision for my son. Those words hurt deep in my heart. Then, I realized that I tried all those different procedures just because I heard they have worked beautifully for other children but it was not my son's case. I knew that it was a well informed decision to the best of my knowledge. We saw 3 different surgeons and I also talked to a couple of moms that have had the same procedure with their children. I knew we had to do this.

Three weeks after surgery, everything started to improve. He was feeling better, we didn't have to use strong pain killers, and he started asking his favorite question: "What are we doing today?" We were very fortunate to have family and friends sending him encouraging and healing messages. Some others came to visit and cheer him up. My parents were in charge of spoiling him for 6 weeks and all that played an important role to get him ready to go back to school for his sophomore year in high school.

Now, the summer of 2014 is in the past, I just feel extremely happy that he is pain free. I have no regrets for not having this surgery before, I have no regrets for trying other methods, and I have no regrets for having this painful surgery. This summer was rough but once again, he showed his strength and I can't be happier!

Texas Parent to Parent

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: www.txp2p.org ★ Email: info@txp2p.org