



This is Emma, she is six.

We need to raise £30,000 for life-changing surgery for her.

Emma is an identical twin, and she was born with Cerebral Palsy as a result of a complication with the twin pregnancy. Put simply, Cerebral Palsy is a term used to describe a group of chronic conditions affecting body movements and muscle coordination. It is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring during fetal development or during birth.

For more information about Cerebral Palsy go to:

<http://www.about-cerebral-palsy.org/definition/index.html>

Emma is affected in her legs, and cannot walk without the aid of a posterior walker. She has stiff muscles with high tone, and does not benefit much from physiotherapy because her body is always fighting against her. She cannot walk for long distances, and even after orthopaedic surgery last year to improve and straighten her legs, they are beginning to stiffen and deform again, rotating inward with knees 'scissoring' toward one another, making it more difficult and uncomfortable to walk.

There is a surgery in the USA called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) that is not offered in the UK. SDR is spinal surgery performed by a neurosurgeon that, in essence, terminates the incorrect feedback coming from the brain to the muscles, and could afford Emma a better chance at more comfortable walking, and even provide the opportunity for her to walk on crutches instead of a walker.

Emma has recently been accepted for SDR, and the date for her surgery is this August, the 9th, 2010 in St. Louis Missouri, USA.

Said Emma's mum, Angela: "She's a very active little girl who wants to do ballet, who wants to play football, and we really want to offer her the opportunity to be all that she can be. Maybe she will finally be able to sit cross-legged at school. If she were walking on crutches it would be fantastic, but if she were just more comfortable and doing things she can't do today it will still all be worth it."

For more information about SDR go to:

<http://www.stlouischildrens.org/content/medservices/AboutSelectiveDorsalRhizotomy.htm>

The cost of the surgery and medical expenses alone are \$51,000 USD. And this does not include any travel or accommodation expenses. Therefore the family is attempting to raise at least £30,000 and more if possible, as Emma and her family will need to remain in the USA at the hospital for a month to ensure that she gets the necessary aftercare, physiotherapy, and equipment required.

Emma's family has set up the campaign **Help Emma Walk** to raise the necessary funds and to promote the various fundraisers going on to support the campaign. One such fundraiser is being hosted by a Newbury charity called Spring Charity Fundraisers, who are planning a charity ball on behalf of Help Emma Walk, with a raffle and auction.

For more information about Help Emma Walk, go to www.helpemmawalk.co.uk or visit the fan club on Facebook (simply do a search for Help Emma Walk).

Thank you for your support.

help Emma walk

