

My Story With Addison's Disease with Rebecca Ciampa Vareski.

8 January

Lets see how many shares we can get for justice for this family and awareness.

Justice for Robbie Powell!

Because of negligence by medical professionals, Robert Darren Powell [Robbie] died on April 17, 1990 at the young age of 10. Four months before his death, he suffered from all the classical symptoms of Addison's disease or Adrenal Insufficiency. Robbie had suffered from an Addisonian crisis and almost died in December 1989 when he was admitted to hospital as a medical emergency.

The medical professionals suspected Addison's disease and ordered the ACTH test but did not share this information with his parents who would have ensured the test was carried out. Instead, the physicians blamed Robbie's symptoms on gastroenteritis, which was untenable in the absence of diarrhoea, the high potassium, low sodium and low blood sugar.

Robbie was seen by 5 different doctors, on 7 separate occasions, in the last 15 days of his life. He was seen by 3 doctors, 4 times, in his last 3 days. Although the young boy was obviously unwell not one physician performed blood tests or even checked his blood pressure during this period. The medical physicians failed Robbie by not referring the child to a specialist, as requested in the medical notes. They also failed to admit him to the hospital to evaluate his condition thoroughly until it was too late to save his life. An Addison's patient does not produce sufficient amounts of the hormone cortisol so therefore needs daily steroids to maintain life. Infection, stress, injury and surgery for Addison's sufferers require additional steroids.

During the week before he died Robbie had become so weak and lost so much weight, as a consequence of dehydration, he was unable to stand and spent all his time lying down. The child had to be carried into and out of a consultation two days before his death and was still not admitted to hospital. On the day of death, Robbie collapsed and fainted while his mother assisted him to the bathroom. When he regained consciousness his pupils were dilated and his lips were blue. The doctor that attended the family home refused the parents' pleas to admit the child to hospital claiming there was nothing seriously wrong with him.

Following the doctor's departure the parents telephoned the hospital that had previously, unknown to them, suspected Addison's disease. They were advised to believe in the doctor but to call her out again if they were worried. The same doctor was called out for a second time. Again, she refused hospital admission but relented after a heated argument with Robbie's father. She only admitted Robbie to hospital because of the parents' concern and not because Robbie was in need of specialist treatment. The doctor provided a referral letter but refused the parents' request for an ambulance.

The parents had to drive their dying son to hospital, which was 12 miles from their home. On arrival, just 30 minutes later, Robbie took his last conscious breath. A crash team was called but it was too late and Robbie lost his fight for life.

Following Robbie's death the Powell's discovered a massive cover up regarding their son's death and established that his medical record had been falsified. Almost 26 years on Robbie's parents are still trying to uncover "The Truth" behind what really happened. To read the full story, visit here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/.../j.../04/health.healthandwellbeing>

Please share this story in support of getting justice for Robbie and his family. Thank you.

RIP Robbie xx

article by Malisha Fuller  
editors Will Powell & Jill Smith

video link:

<http://www.itv.com/.../robbie-powell-death-report-redactions.../>