

How we discovered Julia had Craniosynostosis, as told by her mom Cathy:

Patrick took Julia for her check up in December of 2008. Our pediatrician examined her and noticed a slight bump on the left side of her forehead.

He advised us to take her to a pediatric plastic surgeon located at St Joseph's Hospital. My immediate thought was that this was happening because she slept on one side all the time.

I started switching her sleeping positions from the head of the bed one night to the foot of the bed the next thinking the problem would clear itself up.

In the meantime I made the appointment for the evaluation. We saw Dr Silvio Podda on 2/18. He told me he was 90% sure she had unicoronal synostosis and that the only way to correct it was with surgery.

I was completely blown away. Had I expected him to even mention the word operation I would not have gone to the appointment by myself.

The diagnosis needed to be confirmed with a catscan which was done the following week. After that we met with Dr Anderson, the pediatric neuro surgeon who would be working with Dr Podda.



We also made arrangements to have a 2nd opinion with Dr Mazzola at the children's hospital in Morristown. We were aware that the diagnosis was final.

Once the CAT scan confirmed the condition it was definite. The only reason to seek a second opinion in cases of synostosis is to see if you are more comfortable with one surgeon or the other. We liked all three equally and so decided to stay with the people we were already with.

While we were in the process of determining who would perform the surgery Patrick and I were fortunate to discover that we have a wealth of resources for this particular problem.

Our pediatrician has been great. In addition to initially picking up on the problem he gave honest referrals to drs who perform this operation on a regular basis with amazing results.

My brother Anthony has also been terrific. Not everyone is lucky enough to have a brother who is a great doctor and a patient listener. When I cry he tells me to take a deep breath.

Then I'm able to give him the latest information I've been given which he can then verify with specialists he works with.

Everyone has been great. From our family to our babysitter to people we work with. We've had a ton of people offer to go completely out of their way for us. It's been really touching to see how many people care for us and love her.

