

Carter, September 2007

We're back from another great trip to Montreal! Carter got very, very grumpy before we went this time so we were all quite happy to get there. He hadn't been sleeping well and seemed to be hurting more than usual. After the first day, we had our happy little guy back again! Everything went pretty smoothly the first day at the hospital and it was great to see everybody again. They get to be more and more like family every trip we take.

Speaking of family, Mike's parents came with us this time. Seeing where their grandson is cared for was a good experience for them and they got to adventure around the big city a bit, too.

Carter has finally decided that maybe he does like food...this has been a long process! He is probably the messiest eater around, but he looks pretty cute doing it.



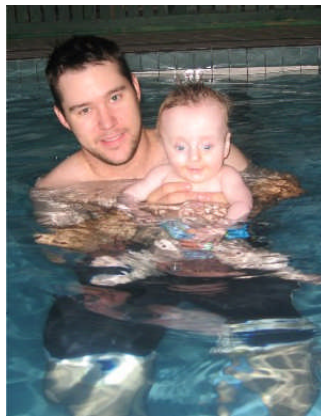
We got to the hospital for the second day of treatment and Carter was ready to play in 'Le Parc' all morning until we noticed his head swelling up by his IV site and a rash starting to go down his cheek. His IV had come out halfway through his dose for that day so we had to go through the insertion process again...not that fun. It went smoothly and we continued the rest of the treatment as usual. The nurses said that the rest of the medicine would eventually absorb into his system. The rash was itchy, but it started to go away fairly quickly and Carter was back to normal.



The doctors brought us wonderful news later that day...Carter's bone density has now increased over 50% since he started treatment in January. The doctors said the average increase is about 40% so he's doing awesome! We also got to see Carter's friend, Charlie, at the hospital that day. We met Charlie and his family in January on our first trip. They were such an inspiration and support to us during that difficult time so we were all very excited to see them again. Visiting with Charlie helped pass the time as he kept us laughing and entertained with his stories. There is nothing better than talking to other people that know! Carter has changed so much since they had last seen him and he seems just about ready to be sitting by himself very soon. In January, he was the little baby that laid on a pillow and didn't move.



Besides the activities we do at home for strengthening, we have also started to take Carter in the pool. He is loving the water and we all have a lot of fun together. It is so great to be able to hold onto him 'normally' in the water since it doesn't put stress on his shoulders. There is a pool at the hotel so we went swimming as soon as his IV was out.



We have gone to Wascana Rehabilitation in Regina for physio a couple times. We try to okay everything with Carter's favourite person in Montreal (his physiotherapist) before we do anything. Some things you might normally do for strengthening muscles or straightening legs for kids that don't have OI would not be good ideas for Carter. We got a 'peanut' exercise ball at Wascana in August to help Carter strengthen his back and neck while he's on his tummy. Both sides communicated and agreed that it was a good thing for Carter. He loves his peanut and it seems to be helping a lot.



Computers and digital cameras are wonderful things to share what's going on at home with Carter's team in Montreal. We showed them pictures of him in his high chair, on his peanut, and sitting in the middle of his pillow so they could see the progress he's making at home. Although he is pretty cooperative, he's not a circus animal that will perform when we need him to at appointments. He does like to show off for his physiotherapist, Stephanie, while batting those big blue eyes at her. It is amazing

to have her work with him and see his response as soon as he sees her. He definitely has love in his eyes! His gross motor skills are coming and he even sat in his own seat on the plane for a while. The cookies and cartoons kept him occupied on the way home.



Once again we noticed him doing new things after he finished treatment. A couple days after we got home, he decided to start rolling from his back to his belly and back again. He thinks he's pretty talented as he looks at us in the middle of a roll and smiles! He's talking a lot and chatters away to Da-Da all the time.

Our fifth trip proved to be another success. Who knows what he'll be doing the next time we head out to our hospital? Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers. Our family truly appreciates it!