

CARTER'S AMAZING JOURNEY – JANUARY 2009

The six weeks at home after Carter's surgery went by pretty quickly. He remained his happy self and his cast never seemed to bother him. He managed to crawl all over the house, started rolling over, and figured out how to lie on his side. It was really funny to watch him try to roll over the first few times, but he got pretty good at it quickly.

During our time at home, we had the struggle of trying to book his CT scan. There seemed to be no way that the hospital in Regina would fit him in so Dr. Fassier contacted Dr. Dzus in Saskatoon and she got us in two days later. Carter's cast had seemed somewhat loose after the swelling from his surgery went down so we were worried that his hip had not remained in a good position. After his scan and some x-rays, Dr. Dzus had wonderful news for us. Carter's hip was still in a good position and had been healing really well! His femur had also been healing nicely so we were extremely excited to get all that good news!



We headed back to Montreal on January 13 to have Carter's cast changed on the 15th. It had gotten dirty while we were at home, but thankfully it didn't smell! Dr. Fassier wanted to check the stability of Carter's hip while the cast was off and they would also do some more scans to check its placement. There was some minor pre-op to be done on January 14 so we spent the day at the hospital, but took Carter back to the hotel for the night. We went back to the hospital early the next morning and Carter was the first one to go into the operating room that day. They had to change the cast in there since he had to be put under anesthetic again. It didn't take much more than an hour this time so we were called to go see him in the recovery room quite quickly. He had woken up before he had even gotten to the recovery room so the nurses were holding a scared little boy by the time we got there. It didn't take him too long to calm down once he had mom and dad back again. We took him back to his room a few minutes later and he was a little tired, but he was basically back to normal very soon.

Dr. Fassier came to our room to let us know that Carter's hip had remained stable while his cast was off. The scans were also very positive and showed that his femur had also healed well. We were thrilled with the news and were even happier when Dr. Fassier told us that he only wanted to keep the new cast on for three weeks.



Two hours after his cast change, Carter wanted to be up and around. He was playing with his dad and his friend, Charlie, before we even had him dressed again! The nurses then had to tape his cast around his diaper area again to protect it from any accidents. He wasn't too happy about that happening again, but it sure helped us at home and is probably the reason why his cast didn't stink at the end of six weeks.



Carter got to spend the afternoon in the playroom and thoroughly enjoyed his time there. He always has so much fun with the child life workers in there. Carter wasted no time getting used to his new cast and the different position his legs were in.



We were given the go ahead to fly home the next day since Carter had recovered so well. We met with Dr. Fassier again to discuss the plans for our next trip. Carter's cast will be removed on February 10 and then he will do some light physio for the rest of that week. Since his hip had been difficult to fix, we are going to go very slowly after his cast comes off. It will take some time for Carter to regain his strength and his bones will be softer than they have been in a while. We will also be meeting with Dr. Glorieux on that trip to discuss Carter's treatment schedule. Since a child is not supposed to receive treatment for four months after a surgery, Carter won't be due until the middle of March. That will likely be another trip four weeks after we return home from having his cast off. It is a lot of traveling so we are once again especially grateful that our trips are paid for by the Shriners!



Carter will have a couple doses of treatment and then Dr. Fassier has decided to place a rod in the right femur too. It will be a shorter surgery since that hip appears to be fine now and Carter will be in a normal, straight cast for just three weeks. After that cast comes off, it will be time for the intensive physio that will get him back standing and hopefully walking!! It sounds like this will all take places later in the summer and then we will be more than happy to stay home for a while.