



Little Bella's Story

Bella was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia three months after birth. A surgical procedure, called Kasai, was performed on her at the time hoping to correct this issue. The surgery was relatively successful and her liver was slowly but surely showing signs of improvements. We were beginning to think that the worst may be over, but little did we know the nightmare was about to come true.

Two months after the surgery, Bella was called to the hospital because of an infection discovered during her routine blood test. The infection was rather severe and she could never recover from it. After her stays in ICU it became apparent that a liver transplant was our only hope.

After a month in hospital, we were advised to travel to Sydney to have Bella assessed for a transplant. By then Bella was constantly battling from virus infections and body weight issues. Her cirrhosis was also causing her to have a poor night's sleep. It became a routine between me and my wife to take turns staying up the whole night to comfort her and warming up milk to feed her through a nasogastric tube. There were times when we felt helpless as she was getting weaker by the day and there was nothing we could do but to wait for a phone call. The planned one week eventually became a two month stay. We were close to emotional breakdown when we were told our little Bella may only have three more months to live.

This was when we made the decision to donate part of my liver to our little girl. It wasn't an easy decision as we were in Sydney alone and my temporary absence would only increase my wife's burden.

Life is filled with unexpected twists and turns. Thankfully, we received the phone call the very next morning after our conversation with the medical team. It was a bittersweet moment as we knew our daughter finally has a chance to get better, but yet at the same time, we were also aware this was the beginning of a lifetime of battle with various unforeseen conditions. Since the surgery there have been a few minor ups and downs but Bella has been relatively well and starting to catch up to all her milestones.

We cannot thank our donor family enough. It is because of their decision that Bella is alive. We are forever grateful.



Little Bella



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www.donatelife.gov.au