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This is the latest praise and prayer news of our grandson Andrew

December 11, 2006 at 05:17 PM EST

Dear praying friends

Andrew has been spasm free for about 5 weeks now!!!! Praise the Lord. An EEG done 3 weeks ago confirmed what we have been observing. It did show complex partial seizure activity, but thankfully Andrew has not experienced this. Currently he's being weaned off the steroid injections and the last one will be on Dec 22. That would have been a total of 12 weeks of daily injections!!!! Andrew's awareness has improved so much that, as soon as we get ready to apply the "numbing medicine", he starts fussing and gets into a resistance mode. While we don't enjoy seeing him squirming and definitely don't enjoy the injecting of the medicine, we are thrilled to see that he has neurologically improved that much. Besides dealing with a fussy child who knows a "shot" is coming, we lately have had to deal with his supporters (his brothers) who protest the injection with a large "STOP" sign. They really love their little "pooh bear" (as they call him because he's short and stout) and play with him. Even if they pound on him, he quietly takes it all and enjoys every bit of it. We are so happy that the kids can enjoy their little brother again like this, now that he's not being isolated in a room.

Along with being more sensitive to his surroundings, he's been more alert and is not sleeping away his days. His improvement in mentation has been made evident by his constant demand for more attention, especially to be held. If crying, he's instantaneously consoled by being held and rocked. We've been doing more therapy with him, including weight bearing of his feet. Slowly, but surely he has been making progress. He's managed to get his right hand in his mouth repeatedly, but the left hand is lagging. We haven't noted any attempt on his part to roll over. He does tolerate periods of "tummy time" though. His vision has shown significant improvement in that, he's constantly checking things out, but for very brief periods. We haven't seen any smiles from him in a long time.

Side effects of the ACTH therapy have been relatively mild for Andrew. Couple weeks ago he had a mild case of infectious cellulitis in both of his big toes, which has been responding to antibiotics well. Currently he's got an ear infection. He's had some elevation in BP, but it's been within acceptable limits. He has retained a fair amount of fluid which has caused weight gained and significant swelling, especially in the face.

Thank you for praying for Andrew to get over the infantile spasms. Please pray too that Andrew would make more strides in his therapy. Also pray that he would tolerate the rest of the course of the steroid therapy and would remain free of infections, especially during this winter season. Pray for us that we would give him adequate attention and would have the wisdom to take good care of him. We also need wisdom regarding the timing of further procedures (head CT scan, kidney Ultrasound, leg casting) and surgeries (ear tubes, palate repair). Pray too that this would be for the furtherance of the gospel, as it has been so far in a limited capacity.

Saju, Juli, Tim, Steve, Andrew

Sincerely in Christ  
George Varghese