

May 25, 2004

Hello all,

Great news. This past two weeks have been really exciting. Normally when talking with Annie, you have, at the longest, a three sentence conversation before she would drift off to another land. She actually stays focused now. Has not asked me how my matrix is for three weeks. No longer talks of her "little friend" that only Annie sees; does however constantly inquire about "her guys". They must be very special to her - still in the picture. Brain cells seem to be working - whether it is swelling going down - one side of the brain compensating for the other side - I have no idea but there is some major improvement in her behavior. She actually remembered something from the evening before. Since the aneurysm, she has not been able to remember what she did an hour ago until this past Saturday. She and her mother will take a nap in the afternoon on the sofas in the den. Before drifting off she said to her mom "The bathroom, it is that way, isn't it?". You must realize, she normally has to be asked if she needs to use the restroom and then be accompanied and directed to the room. Small steps again but they seem huge to me.

Her sister has made a monthly appointment with a hair dresser for Annie. She now has the cutest pixie cut with blonde highlights. Her hair is growing so she is beginning to look like Annie again. She sees the neurologist this week and a new eye doctor. Will let you know if there is anything new. She still has to lift her head to see things which is a difficult posture and also strains her neck. We are trying to find a doctor that can do something with her eyes - possibly to rotate the eyeball so the iris will be in the center again. Did finally find a good in-home physical therapist. She came Sunday and the family is really excited about her. So say your prayers. She said Annie is ahead of the majority with her strength and coordination in comparison to others who have had same brain injury. Go Annie. She is a determined little thing. This woman will be coming twice a week to work with her.

The therapist asked her what she did for a living prior to her injury and she said she was a trader. The therapist then asked her if she wanted to go back to work and Annie immediately said yes. Then, she turned abruptly, looked at me, scrunched up her face, and said "Did I say that?".

I told Annie that I email all of her old friends to let them know of her progress and how she is doing. She said to say hello to all of you and thanks you for remembering her.

Linda