

Every mom wants her child to be healthy and happy...

But imagine learning that at any moment, a seizure could strike that might end your child's chances of a normal life. That's what Robin Kish was told. Then she discovered a cutting-edge miracle that gave Riley back her childhood!



"Riley has exceeded all of our expectations!" says Robin.

Each time it happened, it was the most terrifying thing Robin Kish had ever experienced.

First, the Placentia, California, mom would hear a scream. Then her two-year-old daughter's lips would turn blue. And Riley would stare absently or shake.

Every mother feels helpless when her child is sick. But Robin's little girl was having seizures that could end her chances of a normal life—and nothing could stop them . . .

It first happened when Robin was giving six-month-old Riley her bottle. Riley made a strange sound and then went limp.

"She isn't breathing!" Robin panicked as her husband, Keith, dialed 911.

"She must've choked," Keith told paramedics. But as Riley began thrashing in the ambulance, it was clear: She was having a seizure.

Suddenly, Robin herself could barely breathe. Riley's big brother, Cameron, had just finished treatments for retinoblastoma, a hereditary eye cancer. Finally, Robin thought, we're out of the woods. But after MRIs and EEGs, a doctor was saying, "Riley has epilepsy."

And there was no cure. All they could do was hope medications would keep her seizures in check—because each one could cause irreversible brain damage.

And while, before, Riley would giggle when Cameron made a funny face, now she just lay there.

It's like the spark has gone out of her, Robin sighed. What kind of life is this?

A miracle for Riley

The medications didn't always work, either. Every few months Riley had cluster seizures: Just as she stopped flailing from one, another wracked her, up to 200 a week. And despite countless ER trips and changes of Riley's medication, they kept coming.

But the worst part was the fear. What if today's the day she has a seizure and

stops breathing for good? Robin shuddered. And, afraid Riley would get hurt from a seizure—or not make it to the hospital in time—she couldn't even take Riley to the beach or on vacation.

Something else scared her, too. At Riley's age, Cameron had been a chatterbox. But nearly three-year-old Riley hardly spoke.

How much more will these seizures steal from you? Robin agonized.

"Riley's either seizing—or a zombie!" she cried at a support group of The Epilepsy Alliance.

Did you know?
The vast majority of childhood seizures are harmless, and most kids outgrow them.

As others reached out in comfort, someone mentioned, "Have you heard about Diastat AcuDial?"

Unlike other epilepsy medications, Diastat AcuDial was given immediately following a seizure, to prevent its escalation and more seizures. And it even came in pre-measured doses.

"Amazing!" Robin breathed. It was so brand-new, Riley's doctor had just learned about Diastat AcuDial—but gave her the prescription. And all too soon, a seizure struck . . .

Please let this work, Robin prayed, grabbing the syringe. And incredibly, Riley was back to normal within minutes!

Soon, Riley was talking more—laughing, too! Feeling safer, Robin began venturing out. To the park. The zoo. Even on an airplane to visit Grandma!

If Riley showed signs of a seizure, Robin would reach into her purse for the Diastat AcuDial and . . .

"I okay now!" Riley would announce. Now that Riley's seizures could be controlled, Robin enrolled her in preschool. "She's soaking things up like a sponge!" her teacher commented, and Robin's eyes pooled with happy tears.

Today, four-year-old Riley loves climbing jungle gyms—and has even hugged Mickey Mouse at Disneyland!

"Riley can be a normal kid now," beams Robin. "And that feels like a miracle!"

—Kristin Higson-Hughes

The truth about epilepsy

MYTH A person can swallow his tongue during a seizure.
TRUTH "That's impossible!" assures Kimberli Meadows of The Epilepsy Foundation (www.epilepsyfoundation.org). "Just roll him on his side, and the tongue will naturally move out of the way."

MYTH You should hold a person down during a seizure.
TRUTH Holding them down could strain the person's muscles. "Simply make sure there are no sharp objects nearby," says Meadows. "If you see a seizure start while someone is standing, you can help them to lie on their side."

MYTH Epilepsy is a sign of mental illness.
TRUTH Epilepsy has nothing to do with mental health, it's caused by electrical misfires in the brain.

MYTH People with epilepsy can't live normal lives.
TRUTH "NFL player Alan Faneca has epilepsy. So does Olympic hockey player Chanda Gunn," says Meadows. "Many live full lives with it!"

