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Brave Mihdi suffers new setback

By René Hill

The young boy who has spent his entire life suffering from a rare curvature of the spine recently suffered a stroke and has now been released from the UCLA Medical Center.

Midhi Joon Brock was not expected to survive this recent illness, but the young boy has once again overcome the odds.

Speaking from her son's hospital room, his mother Claire said: "He will have to take it easy and he will not be able to take part in any of his usual activities such as Tae Kwon Do and gymnastics.

"He must rest and relax his entire body."

His father, Marvin Brock, added: "He will be home schooled."

During the interview the specialists entered his hospital room, and Mr. Brock later said: "They said, 'Mihdi fits no known syndrome. Mihdi's various conditions – the apparent recent clots on the left side of his brain, the curving of his spine, single kidney, blockage of his aorta and failure to thrive – are not related. They indicate there is data linking children with congenital heart conditions with vascular conditions in the brain'."

Mr. Brock added that a new finding from doctors in the fields of genetics, paediatrics, internal medicine, orthopaedics and neurology is that Mihdi has some congenitally fused vertebrae on only one side.

"They believe this may be the cause of his progressive Kypho-scoliosis," he explained.

"The more Mihdi grows, the more his curves will increase. The fear of doctors at Boston Children's Hospital, Concord Orthopaedics, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center was that this



Mihdi at play: The young boy recently suffered a stroke.

progression would impede lung function and the normal functioning of other vital organs – resulting in premature death.

"This new finding also led UCLA doctors to suggest that spinal surgery is the only known solution to this problem. Surgery is not an option as long as Mihdi remains on blood thinners.

"Next comes the biggest challenge. He must avoid activity that could cause bruising and internal bleeding."

Mr. Brock explained that when Midhi entered the hospital on October 10 he had taken him to the Paediatric Unit of UCLA Medical Center.

"That day, Mihdi complained to him of not being able to move his arm in order to put on his shirt, and I noticed that not only was his left arm not functioning, but also that his speech was suddenly slurred and his mouth was crooked," he said.

"Without delay, I rushed him to Santa Monica Hospital where Mihdi received immediate emergency treatment."

A few hours later, he was transferred by the intensive-care ambulance to UCLA Medical Center where he was placed in the Intensive Care Unit of the Paediatric Department.

"He was put on medication including aggressive blood thinners, and he has been undergoing continuous testing and monitoring since," he explained.

"Mihdi's condition had stabilised to the point where he was moved onto a ward. He was able to take a short walk down the hall with his nurse."

Fortunately he received medical attention so quickly, that he does not appear to have sustained any permanent brain damage. His medication regime continues as does the constant testing and monitoring by teams from several different departments in the hospital.

"He will have to be on the blood thinners for the next four to six months.

"I am determining how best to set up a new way of life in order to attend to Mihdi's needs throughout the entirety of the day now."

Chinese medicine specialist Dr. Baolin Wu has advised Midhi's parents to follow the recommendations of the hospital medical staff and he will assess the young boy's condition.

For more information about Mihdi and The Mihdi Joon Fund visit www.themihdijoonfund.org.