

Kristi Kimmel Testimony

My son, Zeke began hitting his head aggressively at school 9/26/2019 at 2:00pm. The Vice Principal called me at work alarmed by this sudden behavior. I left immediately and took him to the ER. The Doctor thought it was just a behavior because he's non verbal autistic. He examined him and I asked to check his throat as it may be strep. He summed it up to a headache and told us to give him ibuprofen. We did, but the head hitting increased.

9/27/2019 Zeke was continuing the head hitting constantly, we took him to John's Hopkins Childrens ER. They evaluated him and did an Xray of his abdomen. They said he was constipated, prescribed Miralax and told us to give him ibuprofen for headaches and if it continues or gets worse to bring him back.

9/28/2019 We took him back to Johns Hopkins as I knew something was terribly wrong and Zeke's face was becoming bruised and swollen. He was hitting his head so hard his hair was coming out. They did a CT scan, came back normal. Sent us home with a handout from Kennedy Krieger saying this is a behavior common with Autism. I went online and applied to Kennedy Krieger.

9/28/2019 We took him to Childrens Hospital ER. I was begging, pleading for bloodwork and to be seen by a Neurologist or Psychiatrist to evaluate him as I knew something was terribly wrong. They sedated him, handed us a handout for Sheppard Pratt. I asked why they weren't treating him and they said since he is non verbal, he doesn't meet the criteria and wished us luck.

9/30/2019 We took Zeke to Howard County Hospital to hopefully get Zeke some help and wait for a bed to open up at Sheppard Pratt. We were there three days with him having to be sedated every 2 hours. They suggested we take him home as he was not doing well being locked in a 8x8 room for 3 days.

10/3/2019 I called 911. Zeke looked like he was in a boxing match. I couldn't get anyone to listen. I felt helpless. It took 4 police officers to hold him down for over an hour in the ER until they got him sedated and restrained. He weighed 92 pounds.

10/4/2019 Zeke was transported to Sheppard Pratt. He was inpatient for 10 days. He had to wear a helmet and they surmised the behavior was due to migraines.

10/21/2019 Had Zeke back at FMH, he was getting worse. Change in meds and sent home.

12/2-12/31/2019 Zeke was admitted to Cumberland Childrens Hospital in VA. He tested positive for Strep. I asked about PANDAS. He didn't think that was it and they changed his meds, yet again and 10 days of Cephlexin. He was dropping weight, crying constantly and refusing to eat. He was dying. I had to get him home! I found a functional doctor in Mechanicsburg PA made an appt and he got accepted to Kennedy Krieger.

1/8/2020 Took Zeke to see a functional doctor and he immediately thought PANDAS. He did bloodwork to confirm and started him on antibiotics, AIP diet and supplements.

1/28/2020 Bloodwork confirmed PANDAS. Zeke was already 40% better within 3 weeks.

Zeke now is 90% better with the antibiotics, supplements diet.

The total cost of hospital stays, ER visits and follow up care is over \$100,000.00. 28 prescriptions, all waste. All covered by insurance!

9 Hospitals, 3 Ambulances, 4 police officers, sleepless nights, bruises, black eyes, tears, screaming, regression, total weight loss of 31 lbs. 1/3 of his body weight.

He needed a Strep test and Antibiotics.

No child or family should ever have to go through this.