

PRESS RELEASE
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YOUNG SOUTH FLORIDA MOM TO UNDERGO BRAIN SURGERY TO CURE LIFE-LIMITING SEIZURES

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (April 14, 2008) – Most people faced with impending brain surgery would be ridden with anxiety, but such is not the case for 25-year-old Kayce Fox. After suffering from seizures for 15 years, the South Florida mom is thrilled about getting a new lease on life. One of the most exciting things for Fox is to be able to take care of her 13-month-old daughter without having to depend on others.

As a child, Fox's family nicknamed her "Spacy Kayce" because she would often stare into the distance with glazed eyes and disengaged from conversation or activity. It was not until she was 10 years old that Fox began to experience seizures with more obvious symptoms, such as uncontrollable body shakes and loss of consciousness. Her family then realized that the staring episodes were actually seizures. Fox was diagnosed with epilepsy.

Although she was mostly able to participate in normal childhood activities, her parents constantly worried about her.

"I lost friends because of my seizures," said Fox. "Parents would not invite me to their homes to play or spend the night because they were afraid of what would happen if I had a seizure."

Over the next 15 years, Fox's physicians tried numerous anti-seizure medications, which caused various side effects. Through it all, she continued to experience seizures. Driven to resolve her issue, Fox was seen by several neurologists until she was referred to Eduardo Locatelli, MD, MPH. Dr. Locatelli is a South Florida neurologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and is the medical director of the new epilepsy monitoring unit at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.

After the initial exam, Dr. Locatelli recommended that Fox be admitted to the epilepsy monitoring unit for further evaluation. When she arrived to the unit, Fox's nighttime medications were stopped, and she was connected to a state-of-the-art electroencephalogram (EEG) machine via dozens of tiny wires connected to her head. Dr. Locatelli recorded continuous brain wave activity with simultaneous video recording to look for special patterns that might occur during or between Fox's seizures. Ideally, this data would help determine where abnormalities in her brain were located.

"Thorough screening is essential for proper diagnosis and treatment planning of complicated seizure cases," said Dr. Locatelli. "While the majority of patients with epilepsy keep seizure activity under control with medications, approximately 25 percent of those evaluated in the epilepsy monitoring unit are potential candidates for surgery, which may offer a cure. Surgery can be successful 65 to 90 percent of the time."

Fox was advised that if the origin of the abnormalities was located, she might be a candidate for brain surgery, which could cure her of the seizures. However, locating the abnormalities would prove to be a challenge after results from one of her tests, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, came back normal.

While in the monitoring unit, Fox continued to experience 15 seizures during the night. Although the results from the MRI came back normal, there was obviously something going on in her brain. A positron emission tomography (PET) scan, in combination with the evaluation of Fox's brain wave activity, helped Dr. Locatelli identify the exact location of the abnormalities. Since they appeared in a portion of the brain that is operable, Fox is a likely candidate for surgery.

Within the next few weeks, Fox's surgery at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio will be scheduled. To help her prepare for surgery, Dr. Locatelli has advised Fox to stop smoking, exercise regularly, and take care of her health.

"I can't wait to drive without worrying about causing harm to others or myself," said Fox. "I want to stop being so dependent on my family for help, and I want to further my education. It's very exciting."

For more information, visit www.floridaneuroscience.com or call 954-414-9750.

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About Florida Neuroscience Center

Located in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Florida Neuroscience Center is a state-of-the-art private medical practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and other neurological conditions such as headaches and Alzheimer's disease.

The Center's founder and medical director, Eduardo Locatelli, MD, MPH, holds triple boards in neurology, neurophysiology, and neuroimaging. He holds a master's of public health in addition to his medical doctorate degree. Dr. Locatelli has also earned certification as a Six Sigma champion. Dr. Locatelli is also the medical director of the epilepsy monitoring unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Prior to opening Florida Neuroscience Center, Dr. Locatelli was the director of the epilepsy program at Cleveland Clinic Florida for seven years. He completed his internship, neurology residency, and fellowship at George Washington University. Additionally, he completed a fellowship at the prestigious National Institutes of Health. He is the co-author of Locatelli & Singh's Handbook of Neurology and many scientific papers.

For more information, visit www.floridaneuroscience.com.

Media Contacts

Christine Dardet, APR
954-753-5038 office
chris@dardetpr.com

Debbie Liebross
954-436-3644 office
dliebross@bellsouth.net