



burma children medical fund

BCMF | Operating to give Burma's kids a future

Name: Kyawt
Age: 5 (male)
Condition: Brain Tumor
Status: **Surgery successfully completed**
Fund: Burma Children Medical Fund



Aug 2010: Kyawt after surgery

Kyawt is five years old and presented at the Mae Tao Clinic in June 2010 with a brain tumour. His father had taken him to Mae Sot Hospital as per advice from a doctor from their local clinic in Burma. When he went to Mae Sot Hospital, the doctor told him that Kyawt needed to go to Chiang Mai for an operation. However, his father knew that they did not have any money or Thai identification cards so he cried because he knew that his son would die without the surgery. He felt that his situation was hopeless. However, the doctors at Mae Sot told him to take his son to the Mae Tao Clinic. He came straight away and Kyawt was referred to the BCMF program. His father was very happy as this was his son's only hope.

Kyawt had a CT scan on 14 June 2010 in Chiang Mai. The scan confirmed a well-defined solid-cystic mass measuring 4.7 x 5.9 x 4.0 cm. To treat his condition, the doctors in Chiang Mai started to drain the fluid that had accumulated in Kyawt's brain about a week before his surgery. Kyawt was admitted to hospital in Chiang Mai for ten days. However after the surgery, he got an infection and was kept in hospital for about a month. He was discharged and returned to Burma with his father.



Jun 2010: Kyawt pre-surgery
(note protruding right eye)

Kyawt went back to Chiang Mai for follow-up with the specialist on 17 August. While he was there, the MAP Foundation took Kyawt and the other patients in the Patient House to a famous Buddhist temple in Chiang Mai for a blessing. This is a rare luxury for children from eastern Burma like Kyawt. Kyawt wears the string that was tied around his wrist by monks with pride (*see above photograph*). He has now finished his treatment but has a final follow-up in February 2011.

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Kyawt's father says that his entire experience with his son in Chiang Mai was very, very good. The doctors and nurses would come and play with Kyawt and sometimes bring him food. They were very happy with everything and his father even helped the doctors out by interpreting as he speaks Thai, Burmese and a little bit of Karen (*Kyawt's family are Thai-Burmese and live in Burma, near Myawaddy on the Burma side of the Thai-Burma border.*)



Aug 2010: Kyawt's scar

BURMA CHILDREN MEDICAL FUND (BCMF)

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Kyawt's father says that his son looks much better than he did a few months ago. Though Kyawt sometimes complains of a slight headache in the morning when he wakes up, his current condition is a vast improvement. His father says that before the surgery, Kyawt seemed to be scared of other people and not wanting to play. Now he is very playful and not afraid to play with other children. He is also a lot speedier in his activities. Kyawt likes to write and to draw. He really wants to go to school. He started school last year but had to stop because of his deteriorating condition. He will resume his education at a school near Myawaddy on the Burma side of the border.



His father says that he does not want to say what he thinks would have happened if Kyawt did not get surgery. All he knows is that he is very happy now - his son is better. Thinking about what may have happened without the surgery saddens him. He says that when the doctors at Mae Sot Hospital told him that they could not treat Kyawt, the entire family was overcome with sadness. However, when the surgery was finished and he and Kyawt returned home, the family all inspected his head and the scar. They were then overcome with happiness.

When we saw Kyawt in June, he said that he wanted to be a monk when he grows up. He also said that he wanted to drive a car. Now he has his sights set much higher – he wants to fly an airplane (a fighter jet).

As a group, Kyawt's family want to express their deepest gratitude. They went from feeling despair and sadness to being very, very happy again. When his father was in Chiang Mai, the doctor said that the operation would be difficult and he had to make sure that the family wanted to go through with the operation. His father wanted to have the operation done at all costs because he did not want to lose his son. After the surgery, the doctors and Kyawt's father were both very happy. Many doctors in the hospital came to check on Kyawt every day to see how he was doing. They all seemed happy with the outcome. They were all very friendly.



Kyawt and his dad in June



Kyawt and his dad in August