

I have to share my story about my son, Carter. Last summer, I made an appointment with Dr. Jeremy Ferris because I was desperate. My nine year old son, Carter, was fading in front of me and no one could seem to fix him. Carter approached me the summer before entering fourth grade and told me at different times about how he felt dizzy. Carter is a twin, and I assumed he was probably playing too hard outside: pool, biking, running around...activities that nine year old boys are all about. By July, the dizzy spells became more pronounced and I made an appointment with his primary care physician, who ordered an MRI. The MRI came back and there were no tumors in Carter's brain, so he directed me to an ear specialist. The ear specialist performed various tests and concluded that Carter had Irregular Vertigo – a spinning sensation that might be brought on due to silent migraines. Carter was then directed to a migraine specialist. The migraine specialist ordered for Carter to receive IV treatments for three consecutive days. These IV treatments were used for treating seizures, and the plan was to blast out the discovered clog at the base of Carter's brain stem. After three days of IVs, I watched Carter to see how he was doing, and it worked! I thought we had the problem fixed – no dizzy spells, and Carter was back in school. After about two months, the dizzy spells returned. I was sick. All I could think of was that something was going on in Carter's brain, and we were masking the symptoms with medication. Carter went back to the migraine specialist and he began taking medicine. The meds initially worked, then I was told Carter was growing immune to them, so he would need different meds. As the school year progressed, so did Carter's dizzy spells, and variety of medicines. By January of 2010, Carter began taking medicines that would make him sleep 20 hours a day, then vomit when he stood up. You can imagine how many days of school Carter missed! At this point, if I could have willed Carter to improve, I would have with all my might. I couldn't talk about my growing concern for Carter without tearing up. In February, we made our first appointment with a neurologist. The neurologist ordered a 30 minute EEG, and the result came back as "irregular brain activity" and she began referring to Carter as Epileptic. My heart sank. I had been a special ed. teacher for ten years prior to moving to Fortville, and I was so afraid of what was to come for Carter. So! Let's fast forward to April! By April, the medication given to Carter was not working at all and over spring break, Carter began getting headaches. These headaches would start in his left

ear, ball up and “explode” across his brain to the right side, like lightning...A seizure. I called Carter’s neurologist and she ordered a 24 hour EEG at Riley. The day Carter and I went to Riley is a day I will never forget. When we were sitting in the waiting room at Riley, various children were waiting with us with helmets, leg braces, wheelchairs, or being held. I was fighting panic. Carter and I went to the hospital room where Carter would stay for the next 24 hours and it was in the Children’s Cancer ward in the hospital because it was so quiet. Carter was told to press a button whenever he felt dizzy or had a headache – the tv would shut off, the lights in the room would turn on, and Carter would be able to tell the camera aimed at him where the dizzy sensation was in his head, where the headache was traveling, and to what degree they were – a 1 for slight and 10 for extreme. Carter hit the button every 2-3 minutes for the first 2 hours. I was ok until the nurse came into the room and began to look like she felt sorry for me. I was devastated. Luckily, Carter’s neurologist was on call, and was able to see Carter’s brain activity for herself and talk me off the cliff! The result was that Carter was NOT having seizures, but there was irregular activity, and he was on the fence. Carter could not play contact sports for a while and had to lay low. After the 24 hour EEG, we went back to the migraine specialist and he disagreed angrily with the first neurologist’s diagnosis of the EEG results! So he directed us to a second neurologist! The second neurologist told me that both the original neurologist and the migraine specialist were correct, and began giving Carter a new medicine. The meds made Carter’s face numb and his eyes dilated alarmingly. I was assured that Carter’s body would adjust to the medicine and was told to give it time.

I began to rack my brain – what was I missing? What could I do to help Carter? This wasn’t working!! I remembered that my grandmother had migraines when I was younger, and we gave her a glass of wine nightly and two massages a week. Well, I couldn’t give Carter wine, but I could get him massages. The massages worked to a point, but Carter was still on heavy meds and the effects of the massages wore off mid-week. I was given Dr. Jeremy Ferris’ name as an option. I made an appointment, and that is where our scary story changed forever. Carter and I met with Dr. Jeremy Ferris and I told him I was desperate. I gave him Carter’s history of dizziness/headaches and he stopped me and said, “My

brother specializes in this!” I then sat down with Dr. Matt Ferris and told him everything! Carter began seeing Matt in June. Matt discovered a tiny bone obstructing the path for spinal fluid to travel up into the brain and then back down again – he adjusted it and within a month, I began slowly taking Carter off of his medicines that caused his face to go numb and eyes to dilate. By JULY, 2010, Carter was off all meds! Carter sees Dr. Matt once every two weeks now to slowly wean himself from needing to have his neck/back corrected. At this date, October 1, 2010, Carter has missed 1 day of school (broke wrist on scooter), and has all A’s and 1 B in fifth grade. I have my son back. I get emotional when I really think about it, because my Carter was fading in front of me, and I have him back – and he’s ok. I can’t begin to thank Dr. Matt and Dr. Jeremy for what they have done for Carter and for our family! I will sing like a bird and tell everyone I know of our story! Carter is off of all meds and he’s fine! Incredible results!

Sincerely,
B.N.- Fortville