



MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
THE MARY ANN KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PEDIATRICS
 FOUNDED AS VARIETY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH TALK

A Miami Children's Hospital Community Update

MIAMI CHILDREN'S BRAIN INSTITUTE IS FIRST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN NATION

Jacqueline Massaro does not believe in coincidence. In her mind, everything happens for a reason. The St. Lucie County mother is convinced that fate intervened to keep some of the Northeast's top-ranked pediatric hospitals from discovering her son's brain tumor.

"As a result of their oversight, we were in the hands of the best when Marco had his surgery. We were meant to be at the Miami Children's Brain Institute for his care. It's that simple," she said.

Marco was approximately 8 months old and the family was still residing in Pennsylvania when the formerly healthy child began throwing up at every meal. Physicians at several Northeastern pediatric teaching hospitals told the Massaros that the cause was a digestive disorder and, later, a food allergy.

In December of 2004, when Marco was 17 months old, the Massaros moved to St. Lucie West. It was only after the family came to Miami Children's that they learned what so many other doctors and hospitals had failed to discover: Little Marco was struggling to function with a tumor the size of an orange in his brain.

Surgery was performed days later by Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia of the Brain Institute's world-renowned neurosurgical team, and today, 20-month old Marco is recovering well and meeting all his developmental milestones.

MCH Brain Institute: A National Leader

Miami Children's Brain Institute is the nation's first and only comprehensive medical program dedicated solely to the pediatric neurosciences. It brings together nationally and internationally

recognized specialists in a full spectrum of pediatric neuroscience subspecialties to foster integrated research, and offers pioneering assessment and treatment for children with disorders of the brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves.

Features of the Brain Institute include comprehensive treatment programs for children with a full range of neurological disorders, including autism, behavioral and learning disorders, birth defects, cerebral palsy, headaches, seizures, sleep disturbances, tumors, trauma, metabolic conditions and infections.



Marco Massaro

The Brain Institute is home to the most highly specialized pediatric neurospecialist team in the United States and includes nationally recognized neurologists and neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists, neuro-intensive care experts, neuro-genetics/metabolic

disorder experts, neuro-radiologists, neuro-physiologists, neuropharmacologists, neuro-psychiatrists and more.

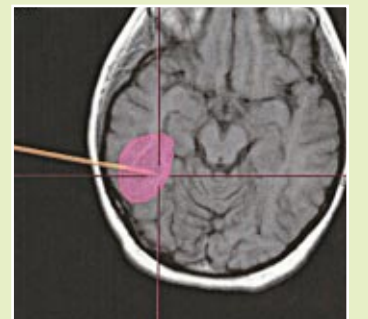
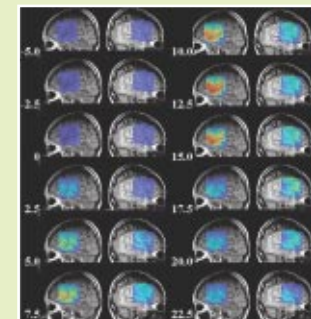
The institute's reputation for cutting edge treatments and family centered care has drawn patients from all over the world.

"We feel fortunate that we were in the hands of the best," said Jacqueline.

A Growing Team of Neuroscience Researchers

To ensure that the Brain Institute remains at the forefront of care for children with neurological conditions, a team of neuroscientists works with the physicians to study the structure, function, and biochemical and genetic profiles of the child's brain and develop new treatments for a variety of neurological disorders. In addition, the team collaborates with university scientists and industry partners to develop new state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment technologies. All of this spells optimal care for children like Marco.

"I knew from the beginning that we were in good hands at the Brain Institute," said Jacqueline Massaro, "My sister had done a web search and told us we were with one of the best in the country. Our experience has really confirmed that."



55 YEARS OF CARING FOR CHILDREN

Miami Children's Hospital celebrates 55 years of service to the South Florida community this year, with a remarkable array of achievements to its credit, including ranking among America's best pediatric hospitals and patient satisfaction scores that are among the best in the nation.

In its comparatively short tenure, Miami Children's has become a regional and international leader in the care of children, having been listed among America's best hospitals for pediatrics by *U.S. News and World Report* magazine for three consecutive years, 2002, 2003 and 2004.



The 268-bed hospital consistently maintains one of the lowest pediatric mortality rates in the nation—approximately one-third the average among children's hospitals nationwide. Miami Children's accomplishes this even as it provides care for South Florida's most critically ill children and newborns.

In other recent highlights, Miami Children's was the first pediatric hospital in Florida and only the fifth nationwide to achieve Magnet recognition, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a hospital nursing team. This achievement is testament to the clinical care and excellence of Miami Children's nurses.

What's more, the hospital consistently achieves among the highest scores for patient satisfaction among hospitals regionally and among pediatric hospitals nationwide, based on findings of independent survey research firms.

World Renowned Physicians

Miami Children's has moved to the forefront nationally in the care of children with congenital heart defects and neurological disorders—receiving referrals from throughout the United States and Central and South America. In addition, the hospital team includes experts in every pediatric sub-specialty.

For a physician referral or more information on Miami Children's Hospital and its services call 305-MCH-4KIDS (305-624-4543) or visit www.mch.com.

CALENDAR

Safe Sitter, 9 am to 4 pm, May 7 and 14

Prepares 11- to 13-year-olds to baby sit safely. The class teaches developmentally appropriate activities, feeding and bedtime routines to help teens and preteens care for babies and young children. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2516.

SibShops

Monthly fun-filled sessions for siblings of children with special needs. The program provides opportunities for children to share personal feelings, experiences and concerns, while taking part in activities such as cooking, art projects and games. For more information, call 305-669-7142.

Emergent Language Group for Children with Autism, 4 pm to 4:45 pm Thursdays

Music therapy is used to promote language development in children with autism. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2434.

Social Skills Group for Adolescents with Autism, 4 pm to 4:45 pm Wednesdays

Music therapy is used to enhance social skills among teens with autism. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2434.

THEY DEPEND ON US, WE DEPEND ON YOU

Miami Children's Hospital is a private, non-profit pediatric hospital. Donations to the hospital can be made through Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. To contact the Foundation, please call 305-666-2889 or visit www.mchf.org.



The best health plans include Florida's only children's hospital ranked one of "America's best" for the past three years.



Miami Children's continues to be recognized as one of the top children's hospitals in the U.S., by *U.S. News & World Report*. Make sure your health plan has the best hospital for your children, Miami Children's, where children always come first.



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