

## THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVED DEVELOPMENT IN A CHILD WITH CEREBRAL PALSY – A CASE REPORT

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### ABSTRACT

*Introduction:* Cerebral palsy is a group of permanent disorders which affect the movements and therefore cause limited motion in a person. The term “cerebral” refers to the brain, and “palsy” to the disorder (or impairment) of movement.

*Case Report:* We present a four-year-old boy who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the early stage of his life. This was his mother's second, uncomplicated pregnancy. The boy was delivered spontaneously on due date with the umbilical cord wrapped once around his neck. After the delivery, the boy was not breathing, was bradycardic and in an altered state of consciousness. He has had to be intubated and transferred to the Center of Neonatology in Podgorica. From the records we got the following information: in the first hour of his life he was in an altered state of consciousness, without any spontaneous breathing, intubated, bradycardic, in an extension posture and with no movements or neonatal reflexes. The laboratory results indicated metabolic-respiratory acidosis. Ultrasound (US) of the brain revealed intracranial haemorrhage, which was confirmed on the computed tomography (CT) of the brain. Hearing and ophthalmological screening were normal. During the first four days of his life, the boy has had several convulsive attacks, however the EEG revealed no epileptic bursts. The antimicrobial, antiedematous and anticonvulsive treatments were started for the next 12 days and withdrawn thereafter. later. The baby was discharged from hospital and the age of 2 months, and recommended to continue on Phenobarbiton and regular and continuous physical treatment. One month later the neurological examination showed: the ATNR was present to the right, with hands in flexion and abduction, with cortical thumbs, and with legs floppy. He was able to make noises, could hold items placed into his hands, but has had trouble lifting his head when lying prone, and the traction of the head caused backward tilt. At the age of 12 months, his fists were still partially closed, with cortical thumbs, was able to lift his head up to 4 degrees when lying prone. The tone of the upper extremities was less increased, he was able to follow movement with his eyes and able to fix the objects. When lying supine, ATNR dominated on both sides. At the age of 36 months she was able to follow movements and objects around him, and the muscle tone was reduced. At the age of 42 months he followed his father with his gaze, reacted to sound, lifted his head and could keep it in this position for about 2 minutes.

*Conclusion:* For every child suffering from cerebral palsy it is vital to create a unique and organized program for their development. Encouraged and loved children with cerebral palsy can achieve a lot more than what one would expect from them, considering their handicap. A good collaboration of the whole team of the patient, the patient himself and family is needed for good success and outcome.

**Key words:** cerebral palsy, child, development.