

I have been accepted for a treatment in the USA that could change my life forever....!!!!

Having this operation could literally change my future. At the moment I can't get off a seat by myself, I can't get to the toilet or deal with my own personal care. I am now 9 years old, and I want to be able to do these things by myself just like most people can. I am reaching that stage when I am becoming embarrassed yet I still need help getting into and out of the bath. I hate being like this, and this operation could change all that for me with your help. The surgeon in America says that SDR will improve my sitting and standing postures. My walking will improve significantly. I will eventually be able to walk with crutches in all environments. I will have more energy and a greater endurance. The bit I get really excited about is that he says I will be able to walk in doors by myself! I can't believe it I am so excited! This also means I may be able to live on my own when I'm grown up.

[WWW.FOOTSTEPS4ABIGAIL.COM](http://WWW.FOOTSTEPS4ABIGAIL.COM)

Is where you can follow my campaign. I will let you know of events you can become involved in. If you are a business willing to sponsor to any extent we will ensure you are recognised on my website and in other communications.

My website is now fully operational and donations can be made on-line.

Cheques should be made payable to:  
Footsteps4Abigail

Monies raised will purely be spent on the operation, drugs, and outpatient physiotherapy. My family will be funding flights, and accommodation and living expenses themselves.

In the event that we are able to exceed our fundraising target all funds will purely be used to fund Post Operational Care and Rehabilitation for Abigail in the UK.

Please Note : "Footsteps4Abigail" is a Not For Profit Organisation and is not a registered charity. We are supported by Bowsland Green PTA (Reg Charity : 1052424), which is Abigail's School

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My name is Abigail. I am 9 years old and live in Bradley Stoke, Bristol. I have Cerebral Palsy mainly affecting my legs. I struggle with balance, sitting, and walking. I can't join in with some of my favourite hobbies such as football and playing tag with my friends as I can't run. I have a wheelchair but I wish I did not! I am very dependent on my parents and carers at school but I wish I wasn't! I want to be as independent as I possibly can now, and for my future life as an adult.

My Mum was very ill whilst I was in her tummy and I had to be born at Southmead Hospital 14 weeks prematurely. I weighed only 1 lb 3 oz / 536 grams at birth and spent 6 months in hospital. That's another story that can be read at [www.abigailns.co.uk](http://www.abigailns.co.uk)

Due to my early arrival into the world I had a bleed on my brain resulting in me having Cerebral Palsy.

Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy is treated in the UK with physiotherapy, splints, gaiters and Botox along with assistive devices.

Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy is not currently available in the UK but in the USA over the past 20 years they have proven that it is a very safe and effective surgery.

SDR involves sectioning (cutting of some of the sensory nerve fibres that come from the muscles and enter the spinal cord.

The operation itself takes 3-5 hours and I will be required to stay in hospital for about 1 week. After, I will need to remain close by so I can continue physiotherapy for the next 3 weeks before returning home.

**Target to raise**

**£36,000**

**By Dec 2010**

Please support our events.

Donate however big or small it all helps!

If you would like to organise an event please get in touch.

If you have any ideas for fundraising or would like to become part of this campaign please contact my Mum directly. Her name is Carrie Newton Smith: 07835 485 457

Email : [carrie@footsteps4abigail.com](mailto:carrie@footsteps4abigail.com)

Together we can be part of changing my life forever....