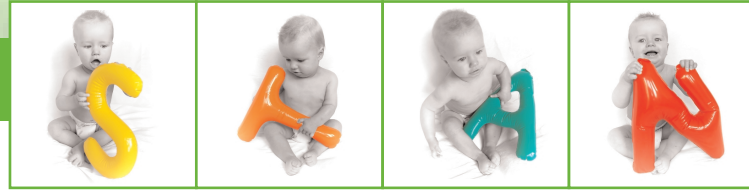


hyperbaric oxygen therapy

the story of



On 19 December 2004 our son **Stan de Graauw** was born in St. Antonius Hospital in Nieuwegein. Delivery was quick and relatively easy. Stan had a very bad start nevertheless. A combination of rapidly dropping heart tones during labor and his lack of reserves resulted in his needing twenty minutes of reanimation, which means he was without oxygen for quite some time.

In critical condition and by emergency transport, he was quickly brought to Wilhelmina Children's Hospital (WKZ) in Utrecht. There too, doctors feared the worst. Partly at the doctors' advice everyone, including the family, said their goodbyes and prepared for Stan to die. There was barely any brain activity left, but because miracle children do exist, it was decided to give him a chance. He was to be attached to a respiratory system for at least twenty-four hours and kept fast asleep through the use of medication. They were fighting for his life.

To cut a long and very emotional story short: **miracles do exist!** Stan's brain activity returned all of a sudden and his condition stabilized more and more. Relatively speaking, Stan made sudden leaps of recovery. He has, however, sustained damage to the brain, namely in that part of the brain which regulates motoric functions.

Stan has recently turned 13 months and we are beginning to see the effects of the damage to his brain. Stan still can't crawl and won't be able to any time soon. He generally holds a lot of tension in his body and has problems controlling his muscles. In other words: his brain sometimes can't control his motions properly. The question is whether Stan will ever be able to walk, be it independently or with help. If he indeed ever succeeds in doing so, it will most definitely take a long time and a lot of effort.

Recently we heard about **hyperbaric oxygen therapy**, which involves the administration of 100% oxygen in an enclosed space with the body under high pressure. This gives brain cells a "jump-start". The treatment is only available in Zwijndrecht and in the Netherlands has only been available for the treatment of brain injury since December 2004. Click www.caresharing.nl (in Dutch) and/or Google "HBOT" (HyperBaric Oxygen Therapy). The younger the patient is when therapy begins, the greater the chances of improvement in the afflicted area of the brain. For Stan, who is now 13 months old, the timing is perfect. There is a real chance that a portion, or more, of the damaged brain cells could recover.

The therapy consists of five sessions of forty treatments (in other words: five times forty days.) This amounts to two hundred treatments, which will then also be accompanied by daily physiotherapy sessions. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy alone costs €30,000- and unfortunately health care companies will not pay for this treatment. We will have to pay for all of it.

Of course, we, as Stan's parents, want to do everything possible to help Stan, and any help you can give us is very welcome. **Please help** by making a contribution to the Stan Foundation. We thank you very much in advance!

On behalf of Stan, his father and mother,
Reinier & Miranda de Graauw

PS For more information please visit www.standegraauw.nl



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