

Patient Story: "Having Vedha during lockdown"



Vedha
Born
28 April 2020

0 months

A few hours after birth, Vedha was taken to NICU with breathing difficulties. Due to Covid only one parent could visit at a time and this made it difficult to bond with him. Breastfeeding wasn't going as I hoped and Vedha was given expressed milk and bottle fed in Hospital.

10 days

Once home it was an emotional time, as parents we felt anxious and unsure. Breastfeeding was painful & Vedha was still not feeding well. The Health Visitor, made phone contact which was **reassuring** but I would have liked a professional to see my baby.

1-2 months

I reached out to JON many times about feeding, sleeping & other concerns; it was arranged that I would receive **virtual support** from Michaela (infant feed team) and this was through video calls.

3-4 months

Vedha's weight was an on-going **worry** & we were not able to get regular weight checks. His breathing seemed very fast and we received conflicting advice from our GP & A&E that this was possibly due to overfeeding.

4 months

A routine NICU follow up Echocardiogram found Vedha had Coarctation of the Aorta and we were rushed to Great Ormond Street Hospital the following day for immediate heart surgery.

6 months

Back home we had **lots of on-going support** from the Health Visitor, the Infant Feeding Team and JON. With a weekly weigh in and call from HV to review Vedha's growth and on-going

All our other follow-up appointments at the hospital were cancelled and replaced with phone conversations.

"The virtual support was great but I can't match it to the same level as if it were face-to-face"

I never felt confident I had a well-baby, and Health Professionals didn't visit so I never felt reassured

"It was so nice to talk to the Health Visitor She made me feel like I was doing a good job as a Mum"

We had lots of ups and downs.....

None of my family could travel to come and stay with me so I missed out on the support and the experience of my mum and mother in law.



PATIENT STORIES