

# FEEDING ISSUES

An experienced parent's  
perspective, 15 years later

CHI family conference –Segrate, Italy, September 17-18 2013

# 2 minutes to get the picture...

You can imagine a week....

By mouth, Catherine drank liquids and ate purees until 7 years old

# Impacts of HI on feeding – Step by step

## Post-natal period - investigation of hypoglycemia

- Need of glucose IV and/or tube feeding

### **Impacts**

- **Breast or bottle feeding**

## Infancy and childhood

- Need of continuous or bolus tube feeding

### **Impacts:**

- **Sensory skills**
- **Parent/child relationship**
- **Care load**
- **Socialization**

# Theories explaining feeding issues associated with HI

- 1) Derived from treatment (medication, invasive feeding)
- 2) Physiological
- 3) A combination of both

**If it is not only explained by 1) there is an urgent need to investigate, answer and treat 2) !**

# What helped us through it

- 1) Getting support from special education (sensory and motor skills)
- 2) Getting support from specialized feeding issue psychologist
  - seeing feeding issue as part of the disease not as something my child intently did
- 3) Medication (Megastrol acetate)

**Not all feeding issues are as long lasting and as difficult but if you struggle with feeding issues,  
Get support and know you are not alone!**



**Catherine is 20, happy and studying at university  
to become a teacher**