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.