

On April 12, 2010 we received a call that no one ever wants to get. Our 16 year old daughter Alexis was involved in a trampoline accident at her trampoline and tumbling club, and was being transported via ambulance to Covenant.

We were nervous and scared, for we had no idea the extent of the injury. Once arriving at the ER, we soon learned that Alexis had little feeling from the shoulders down.

Our nervousness starting turning to fear, and soon our fears became reality. Shortly after they performed a CT scan, they found Alexis had a severe spinal cord injury which would require surgery. The ER doctor informed us that Dr. Buchanan was contacted and looked up the films from his home, and was on his way to the ER.

When Dr. Buchanan arrived at the hospital, he immediately ordered an MRI. She was placed in traction, and he attempted to reduce the displaced joints in her cervical spine.

We first met Dr. Buchanan when he showed us the MRI, and explained what he would be doing during surgery, which involved fusing vertebrae C5 and C6 with bone from her chest area and replacing the disc between C5 and C6 with a titanium plate and screws.

Three hours later when surgery was completed, he informed us that surgery went well, and we would have to let the injury heal to see the results. We knew from the severity of the injury that Alexis would probably face some sort of paralysis.

Within 2 days our fears began to lighten, for Alexis started walking with assistance, and each day after she began to accomplish everyday routine tasks that we take for granted, like eating with utensils. She

was in the hospital for 10 days, and has done 3 months of outpatient physical therapy to help rebuild her strength.

Words cannot express the gratitude we owe Dr. Buchanan and the staff at Heartland Neurosurgery for the promptness, skill, and care that they demonstrated, which is allowing Alexis to live the life of a normal teenager.

Throughout this whole journey we have felt that Alexis has had the best neurosurgeon and staff. They have always treated us with care, compassion, and concern.

Sincerely,

Alexis H. and parents