

Told to abort, family of baby with hydrocephalus glad they chose life

BY DUSTIN SIGGINS, Fri Mar 14, 2014

NEWCASTLE, UK, March 14, 2014 ([LifeSiteNews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com)) – Five weeks before her due date, doctors advised the parents of Ella-Jai Harvey to abort their child because she was found to have hydrocephalus, or water on the brain. Now, six months after Ella-Jai was born, her parents are grateful [they ignored the recommendation](#).

“It doesn’t bear thinking about what would have happened if we had decided on the termination,” Ella-Jai’s mother, Toni-Louise Hubbart, [told The Sheilds Gazette](#). She and Daniel Harvey saw their daughter arrive on September 16, 2013. And while she did indeed have hydrocephalus, Hubbart reports now that “Ella-Jai is doing fantastic, she’s meeting all the markers she should be, and she’s great.”

“It doesn’t bear about what would happened if we had the termination,” Jai’s mother, Toni-Hubbart.

A routine scan found suffered from the which is caused by build-up, and the couple abortion option. They instead opting to child necessary care once she was days after birth, a



thinking have decided on says Ella-Louise

Ella-Jai condition, spinal fluid doctors told was an refused, give their medical born. Two shunt was

placed in Ella-Jai’s head, to drain fluid. She also receives physiotherapy on her neck, and has a pressure gauge in her head that will use a tube to drain fluid from her head to her stomach.

As a way of thanking the medical staff of Royal Victoria Infirmary for taking care of their infant, the couple has decided to fundraise for the Infirmary’s “Tiny Lives” fund. The charity provides assistance to sick newborns and premature babies, as well as their families, who are in the hospital’s special care baby unit.

[According to the National Institutes of Health](#), (NIH) hydrocephalus is a disorder that can occur in children and adults. No direct cause is known. NIH says that while death can occur if treatment is not sought, “some people recover almost completely after treatment and have a good quality of life.” It is found in a very small number of babies – the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia says a maximum estimate of [one-fourth of one percent](#) of “live birth babies” have the disorder.