

MRF Media contact Malvern, Worcs

Claire Evans

Claire's son loan suffered from GBS meningitis in 2007 aged just 4 weeks. He was quiet on Sunday evening and wouldn't feed, but settled for the night. In the early hours of Monday, Claire was woken by loan making strange noises. He wouldn't feed so she took him downstairs. He was grunting, sleepy and unresponsive.

Claire knew something wasn't right so rang her maternity home and an on-call doctor was dispatched. The doctor said 'it's probably nothing but take him to hospital to be sure'. In the 10 minutes it took to drive to hospital loan had turned grey. An admissions nurse examined him and took him straight to a High Dependency Unit. loan started fitting and blood tests determined by mid-morning that he had meningitis.

A PICU unit from Southampton hospital came to loan, stabilised him and took him back to Southampton. He spent a week in ICU, another week on a ward, and was taken back to Portsmouth for another week before being well enough to go home.

loan is now two-and-a-half years old and is making good progress. Claire wasn't made aware at any point in her pregnancy that there was a test available for GBS.

Claire says: "We were incredibly lucky not to lose loan to GBS meningitis. I had no idea that there is a test available for pregnant women to see if they're GBS carriers. I'd advise mothers-to-be to be aware of this test, and of the symptoms of meningitis – that's why I'm supporting national Meningitis Awareness Week."

Contact Claire through MRF: 01454 281811