

University of Michigan
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
1500 E. Medical Center Dr
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

August 14, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Nicholas Torpey carries the presumed diagnosis of Leigh Syndrome. Leigh Syndrome is a genetic disorder of the mitochondria. Leigh syndrome typically manifests as failure to thrive, cognitive delay, hypotonia, seizures, respiratory compromise, and a shortened life expectancy. He is followed at the University of Michigan by the Pediatric Neurology and Pediatric Genetics services.

Nicholas displays many of these manifestations of Leigh syndrome. In particular he has had at least 1 episode of respiratory failure that resulted in orotracheal intubation. Respiratory failure in the setting of Leigh syndrome typically occurs because of disordered control of breathing, weakness, or inability to handle secretions. Respiratory failure in Nicholas can be treated just as you would in other children, bearing in mind that as his failure is more likely to be central in nature, he may more readily necessitate orotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation.

He has also had at least 1 seizure in the past that has resulted in him being maintained on Phenobarbital. Currently he has been seizure-free for over a week on Phenobarbital. Should he start seizing again there are no contraindications to using the typical anticonvulsants on him. Ativan, valium, and dilantin are all acceptable medications to use for Nicholas.

Nicholas is currently treated with the following medications:

- 1) Phenobarbital
- 2) Coenzyme Q10
- 3) Vitamin E
- 4) Ascorbic acid
- 5) Levocarnitine
- 6) Thiamine

He has no known medications allergies.

Please feel free to contact the Pediatric Neurology Department at the University of Michigan regarding any questions about Nicholas's care. Please call 1-800-962-3555 and ask for the Pediatric Neurologist on call.

Sincerely,

Abid Kagalwalla, MD
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
University of Michigan