

Presenter: Welcome back. An Invercargill baby has become the first in New Zealand to receive a cutting edge⁽¹⁾ drug treatment for a birthmark tumour. Finn Boucher has a potentially life-threatening⁽²⁾ disfigurement but doctors at Hutt Hospital have now managed to curb⁽³⁾ its rapid growth. Health correspondent Lorelei Mason with this exclusive report.

Lorelei Mason: It's called a haemangioma⁽⁴⁾, a non-cancerous strawberry birthmark tumour, Finn Boucher's mum Sue soon noticed his the day after he was born nine weeks ago.

Mother: It just sort of grew quite rapidly.

Mason: Doctors knew it would quadruple in size over the next six months.

Dr Philip Leadbitter: If this tumour was to get any bigger at all, then he would be having significant problems with his breathing.

Mason: Finn was put on the usual treatment, high-dose steroids but they didn't work.

Dr Swee Tan: In a situation like this which occurs in about 15% of cases, we have to act because we do not have a choice.

Mason: The next step would have been chemotherapy but Hutt Valley Hospital specialists decided to try something new and cutting edge, a drug commonly used for treating high-blood pressure called Propranolol, a drug only used, until now, by doctors in France. Doctors there stumbled upon⁽⁵⁾ it accidentally while using it to treat the heart failure many babies suffer when put on steroids.

Dr Leadbitter: Within⁽⁶⁾ days, the tumour sort of visibly shrank⁽⁷⁾ before their eyes.

Mason: The team here decided it was worth⁽⁸⁾ a try for Finn.

Dr Tan: We know that this drug is pretty⁽⁹⁾ safe, it's been used on children.

Mason: He was given his first dose 7 days ago. The reaction was immediate.

Dr Tan: First of all, the birthmark stopped growing and secondly it has shrunk significantly⁽¹⁰⁾.

Dr Leadbitter: We're going to stay on the same dose of Propranolol.

Mason: Finn, the trailblazer⁽¹¹⁾, is now out of pain and feeding well.

Mother: If it would be able to help other babies in the future, it's just fantastic.

Mason: It's hoped the drug will help Finn's birthmark disappear altogether⁽¹²⁾ within 12 months.

Lorelei Mason, Onewest.

Lexical helpline:

1. **cutting edge:** most advanced
2. **life-threatening:** very dangerous with the possibility of death as an outcome
3. **curb (v):** control, limit
4. **haemangioma:** non-cancerous strawberry birthmark consisting of a dense, often raised cluster of blood vessels in the skin.
5. **stumble upon (v):** discover by chance
6. **within:** inside
7. **shrink (shrank, shrunk) (v):** reduce in size
8. **worth (adj):** important enough to justify something
9. **pretty (adj):** large in size, extent or value
10. **significantly (adv):** greatly, to a large extent
11. **a trailblazer:** a pioneer
12. **altogether:** totally

Translation:

1. Ce traitement de pointe est en réalité dû à une découverte fortuite.
2. Les chercheurs sont tombés sur ce médicament par hasard. Depuis, c'est le meilleur traitement contre les hémangiomes tubéreux.
3. Afin d'enrayer la progression de cette maladie, il est nécessaire d'agir dans les deux heures qui viennent.
4. Ce nourrisson est un pionnier. L'essai clinique valait vraiment le coup car, à présent, il est en bonne santé et se nourrit parfaitement bien.

1. This cutting edge treatment is in fact due to a discovery by chance.
2. Researchers stumbled upon this drug. Since then, it has been the best treatment against strawberry marks.
3. In order to curb the progression of this disease, it is necessary to act within the next two hours.
4. This infant is a trailblazer. The clinical trial was worth it because, currently, he is in good health and feeds perfectly well.