

# Jasmine back on her feet after vital brain op

By Chris Mullany

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**ROTHERHITHE TOT** Jasmine Harris will be back in New York next week for her second check up, one month after undergoing delicate brain surgery.

Jasmine, three, underwent gene replacement therapy at the end of October at Cornell University, as part of a pioneering trial by American doctors. The treatment involves injecting healthy genes into her brain, in a bid to bypass faulty genes that create late infantile botenon - an illness that invariably leads to the child's death.

The surgery went well - "the doctors were amazed by how quickly she bounced back," said mum Tina. "We returned to the UK on

the Wednesday, and she was back at her preschool, Alfred Solter, by Friday!" she added.

Jasmine is the youngest child to have undergone treatment. Whether the procedure will have any effect on Jasmine will not be known for at least six months, although her parents remain hopeful. They are still hoping that older son Jordan, who was the first to be diagnosed with the rare illness, can receive treatment. His condition is more advanced, and although the neurosurgeon was positive in October about carrying out surgery, it will depend on eighteen month check ups on the first children who underwent the operation, which are due back next January. The university would then have to apply to the Food and Drugs Administration in America for permission.

The charity set up for Jordan and Jasmine

continues to raise money, to support the trials at Cornell University. If you would like to donate, please make cheques payable to: The Jordan Jay Trust, and post them to: The Jordan Jay Trust, Alliance House, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH.



Jasmine moments before the operation and now (top right) back in Rotherhithe