

Aiden (age 10)

In summary, Aiden is a 10 year old boy with spina bifida syndrome (SBS).

SBS is a neural tube genetic birth defect when small bones of spin (vertebrae) don't form properly around part of a baby's spinal cord early in utero development. Etiology related to genes and the environment. Occurs in about 0.4 per 1000 births Spina bifida can be mild or severe.

Rare and more severe form is meningocele or spina bifida syndrome (SBS). In this form, fluid leaks out of the spine and pushes against the skin. A bulge in the skin can be observed. In many cases, there are no other symptoms. The mild form is the most common which usually doesn't cause problems or need treatment. Most children with this form don't know they have it until they might have back X-ray for another reason.

Challenging symptoms of SBS are bladder or bowel problems, such as leaking urine or having a hard time passing stools. Diminished or no feeling in the legs, feet, or arms, so unable to move parts of the body. Fluid buildup in the brain (hydrocephalus) and even when treated, may cause seizures, learning problems, or vision problems. Also spine curvature such as scoliosis including associated ambulation issues are other symptoms.

Lily (age 12); Part 2

*In summary, Lily was diagnosed with apraxia of speech (CAS) at 4; and autism (ASD) at age 5.
Now at 12 years old ...*

See prior description of (CAS)...a motor speech disorder.

ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder via publication of DSM 5). ASD refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by individual unique strengths and differences. There is not one autism but many types, caused by different combinations of genetic and environmental influences. Term "spectrum" reflects wide variation in challenges and strengths possessed by each person with autism. The most-obvious signs of the disorder tends to appear between 2 and 3 years of age. In some cases, it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months. Disorder characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences. Autism's prevalence is 1 in 68 children; 1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls. Around one third of people with autism remain nonverbal and another one third of people with autism have an intellectual disability. Frequently medical and mental health issues frequently accompany autism. They include gastrointestinal (GI) disorders, seizures, sleep disturbances, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety and phobias.