

Remembering those we're working for

Nile Calvin Moss

August 23, 1990 - April 17, 2006

Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding

1. If an induced sputum specimen had been obtained at the children's clinic attached to the hospital, the Gram stain would most likely have been positive for Gram-positive cocci and possibly blood since the autopsy identified hemorrhagic changes in the lungs. These tests may have provided clues to an earlier diagnosis of MRSA Pneumonia and appropriate treatment.
2. If the SB739 Public Reporting Law was in place today (including evidence-based infection control measures that are based on proven best practices) Nile's parents would have been given a source for understanding which area hospitals were doing a good job in preventing infection.
3. If public reporting outcomes of all hospitals and skilled nursing facilities were available - reporting the actual numbers of those patients colonized or infected with MRSA, VRE and other antibiotic resistant pathogens - Nile's parents would have had, again, further important decision making information to determine which local hospitals were doing a good job at infection prevention.
4. If active surveillance was in place at this hospital, a simple nose swab rapid test could have detected MRSA early-on saving precious hours of life through early intervention with proper antibiotic treatment. In addition, active surveillance would have prevented the possible spread of this very contagious bacteria to other patients and healthcare workers. Active surveillance is required by law in Illinois and used by the VA and many other hospitals nationwide.



Timeline and Red Flags

Early March of 2006	Nile's parents noticed a slight change wherein Nile's eye was closing, his smile was uneven and he was slightly dragging his foot.
March 22 nd through April 4 th	Nile spends many hours testing in several major hospitals in South Orange County; he was in an emergency room and spent hours on an MRI table in Radiology and various labs.
April 13 th	Symptoms begin; Nile (who had an incredible tolerance for pain) complained of a head-ache that lasted for the day.
April 14 th	Nile shared that he'd had a sore throat since Wednesday.
April 15 th	Nile's mother took him to a pediatric clinic attached to the hospital where it was found Nile had a fever of 102.4 and pulse measuring 116. A rapid strep test was negative, he was given Zithromax and sent home. Lessons Learned: His mother reported Nile had been in several hospitals over the past couple of weeks and had spat out an unknown substance that was chocolate brown in color. Red Flag: These statements should trigger a Rapid MRSA Test. Early Intervention at this time could have changed the outcome.
April 16 th early am	Nile's fever rose to 104.5; his parents gave him Tylenol and a cold bath, and his temperature came down and he fell asleep early Sunday, Easter Morning.
1:00pm	April 16 th Nile woke with rapid breathing, and returned to pediatric clinic at around 1:00 p.m. His temp was 98.9 and oxygen saturation measured 88%. Oxygen was started and a respiratory therapy treatment performed.
3:00pm	A check ex-ray diagnosed pneumonia and he was admitted to the pediatric unit of a Southern California Children's Hospital. Nile's breathing continued to be rapid and difficult. Hours went by all that was given to Nile was oxygen.
9:00pm	Nothing was helping. Red Flag More than 4 hours go by before Nile receives antibiotics to treat the pneumonia Nile was moved to Peds-ICU. Red Flag: 7 hours had passed and no one stepped in to help Nile breathe.
10:45pm	Nile was finally intubated. That was the last time his family spoke to Nile. Nile's fever rose to over 108 at times through the night; the staff was unable to help.
April 17 th 1:30am	Vancomycin was ordered at 1:30am and given around 3:00am.
3:00am	A test for MRSA was given. Red Flag 3 days later this test came back "positive."
5:20am	Nile could no longer breathe, his life ended here on earth and he is missed every minute of every day. Lesson Learned: Many have survived this same kind of experience. Pediatric Unit Red Flag reported "recent time spent in hospital" with a negative strep test should equal a Rapid MRSA Test. Further actions that could have saved Nile: Active Surveillance, early intervention of proper antibiotics, earlier intubation, induced coma.

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Celebrating Nile Calvin Moss

Born: August 23, 1990 - Welcomed Home: April 17, 2006 - 15 Years Old

What people think of when they think of Nile

Faith, love, strength, gentle, focus, kind, friend, listener, adventure, persistence, focused, purity, perfection, fearless, contentment, creative, giving, goodness, fun, savor, great attitude, gratitude, cool, enjoy, happy, smile

Nile Loved

His family & friends, applesauce with every meal, M&M's, PB&J and lots of music; "Ray Charles Christmas" all year long, Hillary Duff, Carlos Santana and Raven Simone. Favorite movies: "Fly Away Home" & "Titanic." He loved every minute of every day but his favorite day was Friday. He loved his horse "Tex," dressing up in costumes & cool clothes and memorizing calendars. He loved everything Disney, Target & Barnes and Noble. He loved to travel the world and throw big parties. He loved it when it snowed, to go to the Grammys and play the keyboard. He loved to sing and dance. Nile simply loved to smile..... Nile loved to live! Nile traveled the world, from Hawaii to Spain, to Canada, Paris and London; to Montana & back to Spain again. "He experienced more life in 15 years than most do in 90."

Incredible Memory, Freshman Honor Roll; Singer, Dancer, Swimmer, Actor, Keyboardist, Artist, Painter and "Master Chef." He loved to shoot hoops, ride horses, and much, much more. +++ Nile would wake every morning saying "it's going to be a great day today!" "What are we doing today?... and then what?... and then what?" At the end of each day he would jump off the school bus and say: "I had such a great day today!"

Nile taught us all how to live, to appreciate all the gifts we've been given.

Nile's Talents

April 17, 2006 at 5:20am, Nile lost his fight with MRSA within 48 hours of the first sign of a fever.

On Thursday Nile complained of a headache, by Monday his heart stopped beating and he was reborn in Heaven.

Death Certificate Reads - Immediate Cause: A) Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, B) Septic Shock C) Pneumonia. Final Diagnosis: overwhelming sepsis and pneumonia secondary to methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

IMPORTANT TO NOTE Many pneumonia victims do not investigate the cause. The size of the MRSA epidemic could be even greater than we think. The last APIC study reports of the nearly two million people that go in the hospital each year and get infections over 100,000 of those people die of MRSA.

