Grady/Morehouse surgeons discover breakthrough treatment for traumatic brain injuries

Lacy Adamson, 17, is a walking miracle, her mom, Lori Adamson says. One minute the Newton County teen was driving down a rural, two-lane road from varsity cheerleading practice. The next second, her truck was somersaulting into a cow pasture. A motorist who was traveling behind Lacy watched in horror as Lacy’s truck flipped over and over after hitting a pothole in the road. Lacy was ejected from the vehicle and so badly injured that she had to be airlifted to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta where the Morehouse trauma team led by Dr. L. Ray Matthews worked to save her life from a devastating head injury. “She has regained her memory. She’s walking and talking and cheering again just as if she never had the accident,” said Lori Adamson. “We know personally that miracles do happen.”

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“We could see her improvement every day that she was in the hospital,” said Adamson, who, along with her husband, stuck by Lacy’s side during her treatment at Grady and rehabilitation at Egleston Children’s Hospital.

“Fifty percent of patients with the type of head injury that Lacy sustained do not survive. Those injuries are known as a Diffuse Axonal Injury (DAI),” Matthews said. “Another 47 percent are in permanent comas or severely impaired the rest of their life. Less than 3 percent regain conscience and can interact with their environments.” Matthews said he knew from the outset that he had to treat Lacy’s brain injuries with multiple drug therapy in order to give her a fighting chance for survival and recovery. As soon as she arrived at the hospital, the trauma team started her on a combination of vitamin D3, omega 3-fatty acids, glutamine, and progesterone which Matthews started Lacy on while she was in intensive care, saved her life and put her on the road to recovery.

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