

BI Doctor Helps Irish Girl Walk Again

Jacob Rozbruch, MD, Chief of General Orthopedic Surgery at Beth Israel, recently helped a young Irish girl walk again after she had been told she would spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

Ten-year-old Nicole Cahill from Marshalstown, Ireland, suffered a severe viral infection in 2004. She spent 24 days in a coma, and swelling in her brain caused a stroke. When she emerged from the coma, she was confined to a wheelchair. Her final diagnosis was acute disseminating encephalitis.

When rehabilitation in Ireland didn't help, Nicole's family sent her to **Dr. Rozbruch**.

"I treated Nicole for post-encephalopathy spasticity, which involved all four of her limbs, but most severely, her left lower extremity," **Dr. Rozbruch** says. "She was unable to walk independently, even with braces and walker."

Dr. Rozbruch surgically balanced Ms. Cahill's muscles with muscle and tendon transfers at the left hip and left calf. "The surgery was successful," he says. "By the time Nicole returned to Ireland at Christmas, she was able to walk independently, without support or braces, and without pain."