

Wexford girl walks again after NY surgery

By Alana Fearon

A County Wexford girl who was told she would never walk again took her first steps on home soil last week after six months of rehabilitation in New York.

Schoolgirl Nicole Cahill walked unaided through the arrivals area at Dublin airport despite being told she would never walk again.

Four years ago, Nichole contracted a debilitating disease, Acute Disseminating Encephalomyelitis, which caused inflammation of the brain and left her in a coma for 24 days.

When the 10 year old emerged from the coma, she and her family were warned she would be extremely brain damaged.

She remained in a wheelchair despite months of treatment at the National Rehabilitation Center in Dún Laoghaire. At this point an aunt in the U.S. recommended further treatment at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City.

Nichole, who is being dubbed the “miracle girl” received surgery and rehabilitation under the care of renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jacob Rozbruch and is now back on her feet.

The total cost of the treatment will be at least €200,000 and Nichole’s family have already raised more than half of the cost.

A CD of songs by local Wexford artists Ron Smith, Stephen Murphy and Blue Lace entitled “A Song for Nicole” has just been launched to raise funds to cover treatment costs.

A massive homecoming bash was held for Nicole at her aunt’s house in her hometown of Marshalstown. It was followed by a reception at the Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy.

