

Brave teenager feared she would never stand up straight again

Tilly saved by clinic after operation horror

By Peter Finch

A 14-year-old girl from Shropshire has spoken of her miraculous recovery after an operation to correct her curved spine was hit by an infection.

Tilly Cooper, from Charlton Rise, Ludlow, was diagnosed with scoliosis aged just 12. Doctors told the youngster her spine had become so contorted she would never

stand straight again.

Left devastated and with very few options the Cooper family agreed to the 'brutal' spinal fusion surgery intended to help save Tilly's mobility but it went drastically wrong and left Tilly in a worse state.

Devastated mum, Jane, said the news was a terrible blow to Tilly who had been a keen runner before her condition was diagnosed.

However, two-years after learning the surgery had been unsuccessful Tilly is on her feet thanks to help from a clinic founded by another scoliosis sufferer, Erika Maude.

Tilly said: "I was so upset when I was told about my spine. I was extremely worried about what was going to happen to me.

Stronger

"I can remember the first time I heard anyone mention fusing my spine and I panicked. The idea of having major surgery and having metal rods placed down my spine was horrible. The nightmares I had those first few weeks after being diagnosed are indescribable."

Tilly was marked as high priority by doctors as she had a curve almost double that of most scoliosis patients.

The Cooper's got through the operation but Tilly developed an infection as her body rejected the metal rods. Eventually it was decided the rods placed in Tilly's back should be removed.

But during the summer a family friend told them about a clinic called Scoliosis SOS based in London which treats scoliosis through exercise and physiotherapy.

Jane said they took Tilly on a four week treatment course and within just a few weeks her back was starting to take to a much better posture. Her pain decreased and her confidence soared.

Tilly added: "I feel like I have been through so much but it is all in the past now and with my back feeling stronger than ever, I really do have so much to look forward to."



Tilly Cooper

