



Portable Oxygen Company

The Medical Division of pureO₂

Specialist provider of Portable and Medical Oxygen Solutions

NEWS REPORT

AUTUMN 2007



“...the transformation our family has had since receiving the freestyle has been phenomenal.”



This is the true story about Joshua Hayes, a 3 year old boy from Bolton, Lancashire who has become the youngest person in the world to have a portable oxygen concentrator.

Unfortunately, Joshua was born with a condition known as Recornio Masceration Syndrome. This is a condition whereby the lungs are not receiving enough oxygen before birth and collapse. This meant Joshua would need a small amount of oxygen daily to allow him to lead a normal life. But the standard NHS oxygen cylinders simply didn't provide the quality of service Joshua needed. This is where we were given the chance to help provide Joshua with a better quality of life.

Recently, Sarah Hayes, Joshua's mother, searched high and low for the right solution for supplying portable oxygen concentrators and got in contact with ourselves POC, the medical division of Pure O₂. We went to see Joshua to give him a medical assessment with the equipment to see if we felt he would benefit from our machines. Joshua's doctors recommended that he should stay on a continuous oxygen supply. However, Sarah was so desperate to find a solution to give her and her son the independence and life they were craving to get back. Eventually through advice of Joshua's senior consultant and the help of their local PCT, she was given the green light to purchase a Freestyle portable oxygen concentrator to see if it would be the new lease of life they were hoping for.

We caught up with Sarah and Joshua a month later, to see how much progress, if any, had been made. Here is how it went:

How had Joshua's condition initially affected his life?

Well, Joshua has not really been able to leave my side since he has been born because he has needed constant supervision. As he has grown older, it has shown that he cannot exercise as much, and gets out of breath doing simple tasks such as walking up stairs. He has not really been able to enjoy life the same as a healthy little boy should, playing out with friends, going to school etc.

How much do you feel Joshua was confined to the house?

Like I say, he has not really been able to leave mine or my mothers side and with Joshua on oxygen for hours a day, it has restricted our freedom. We have tried to get him out of the house as much as we can but in the colder months we have had to keep him inside a lot more because the weather is just too cold for him and increases the chance of infection.

How stressful have the last three years been for everyone involved?

It has been extremely stressful for the whole family. Joshua and I have been in and out of hospital since day one, which has been so worrying and time consuming. It has also meant that I have not been able to go back to my job. I have not been able work for the past three and a half years, which has added its own strains. As much I love Joshua and I love caring for him, looking after him 24 hours a day since birth has been demanding as there is no respite for me. I have had to put myself and my health second, until a solution had been found.



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What solution did you come up with?

I just wanted to find something so that Joshua can have some independence and do normal little boy things like school. Just when we were short of ideas, somebody mentioned small portable oxygen consoles to us. We looked to find any companies supplying portable oxygen concentrators and thankfully we came across your company and that's why we phoned for a demonstration.

What made you purchase a Freestyle portable oxygen concentrator?

One of the main reasons was because I did not like Joshua using oxygen cylinders, especially when he was not with me. They are not the safest things to have and definitely not for a three year old child. Also, the schools that I spoke to did not really like the thought of oxygen cylinders being in the school due to health and safety laws. The other thing I did not like about the cylinders was the weight of them and the fact that they contain a limited amount of oxygen.

The concentrators however are very safe. The schools were also much more enthusiastic about the concentrator. I was much happier with this too because it meant that Joshua could go to school and I had the peace of mind that he was not going to run out of oxygen as it could be recharged off any mains output. It was very small and easy to use, even for Joshua and it was very good value for money for what it has achieved for us.

How has the Freestyle concentrator changed your lives?

I can't even begin to tell you how much it has changed our lives. Joshua himself, is so much happier and has a

great deal more confidence. It has also given him the independence he should have. Because of the Freestyle, he is now a normal little boy. He is now able to ride a bike which up until now, I thought was never going to be possible. He is also out playing with his friends and has even started school. That on its own has taken so much stress away from me. At last I get to have a rest and have some time to myself. I have my life back too, so when Joshua does finish school for the day, we both feel much happier together.

Would you recommend the Freestyle or other portable oxygen concentrators to anybody who requires oxygen?

To be honest, the transformation our family has had since receiving the Freestyle has been phenomenal. Our doctor initially recommended for Joshua to stay on continuous oxygen as oppose to pulse flow (the concentrator outputs a burst of oxygen when the patient inhales). However, my instinct was telling me to try it and it has definitely worked for us. Our doctor monitors Joshua regularly and he now agrees that it has helped him dramatically. Joshua is now more active. He is building up his fitness and muscles which is great for his body and his lung capacity. If it has worked for us then it will work for thousands of people in a similar situation. If I can help one other family by speaking out, then it will be fantastic.

Finally, to enable Joshua to carry his oxygen supply around easily and comfortably, Sarah, Pure O₂ and the hospital, all helped to re-design a little rucksack for his concentrator to fit into.

