



Speaking from Experience *Epilepsy Surgery*

Transcript for chapter 11 of 12: A life transformed?

Sarah, 3 months after surgery, and mother Frances: The operation has changed my life because I've got more confidence.

Maree, 11 months after grid monitoring and surgery, and husband Rob: I actually haven't had any seizures since surgery. It's great.

Maree and Rob: It's fantastic. It's been 11 months now.

Denise and Frank's son, Luc, had surgery 1 year ago: There was one seizure only, and that was three weeks after the surgery and that was almost expected. As the brain healed and the scar tissue formed and so on. But it's been nearly a year and a half now. So, as far as we're concerned it's been a success.

Louise, 9 months after surgery: I had a seizure and they said, one seizure, that's alright. Because that happens after surgery, a lot of people have a seizure. Even after that one seizure, I sort of felt like this hasn't quite worked.

Barry, 2 years after surgery: I'm currently still being relieved of medication. I think it still plays a part in some of the light affects that do affect me. My doctors have every hope of taking me fully off all my current medication.

Maree and Rob: I'm on less medication than I was after surgery, so I have been reduced off part of it.

Louise: I could really feel just the memory difference. You know, being able to remember what had happened throughout a day and even throughout a week. I could remember things that had been happening, whereas in the past, I found it really difficult.

Sarah and Frances: My concentration improved with my reading.

Barry: My health has improved. My mental capacity to be able to operate and communicate is improved out of sight. In fact, to use my parents' words, "We've now got a new son."

Denise and Frank: His basic personality was the same, but it was much easier to deal with him. In a way I did have to learn a new relationship with him because this was a chance now to have fun and to play together and to not let my worries influence him.

Denise and Frank: It was like he used to be, really, before he had seizures, wasn't it?

Denise and Frank: Yeah.

Denise and Frank: He was fun again and he was happy and bright and bubbly; something that he had really lost for a couple of years. It was so wonderful; sort of like having him back again, the way we always remembered him.



Maree and Rob: We were given the ok to start a family again, a couple of months ago, I suppose.

Barry: I'm now engaged to be married, free of epilepsy.

Maree and Rob: She can go for her Learners Permit. So, she'll be driving around the roads.

Sarah and Frances: There's so many little things that you just take for granted and now, you know, we can live a normal life.

Maree and Rob: It's like the biggest weight is off my shoulders and it just feels great.

Mark: 100% successful for me. I guess, unfortunately, there have been a few people I've spoken to where it hasn't worked. It may have reduced their seizures or changed their seizure pattern. Fortunately, in my case, it's worked.

Maree and Rob: I feel like I have a confidence that I haven't had before. I've got the feeling, like something in me saying, "I could give anything a shot now."

Louise: I'm not having seizures as often as I used to and there's more things coming out to treat me. So I don't think it was a bad to do. I'm better now than I was before.

Denise and Frank: There was such a lot of electrical activity before. He would ask Denise to set up the marble maze, for example, and three minutes later when it was half built he'd wander off and forget what he was going to do. It is such a contrast now. He can actually play memory...

Denise and Frank: He's actually got a good memory too.

Denise and Frank: ...and Uno and all these other things. Yeah.

Denise and Frank: He's amazing.

Denise and Frank: He remembers all my promises from the days before to take him to a park and swimming pool or something. He doesn't let me get out of anything now [laughs].