
Baby a blessing for woman who had deep brain stimulation for epilepsy

Video	Audio
Nats of Isaac	
Sheri Finstad	"We were extremely excited to let my medical team know that he was born."
Nat sound	"Hi honey."
Sheri Finstad Patient	"They all have known that we have wanted to have a family. And, so, to be at this point, it's just been a miracle really."
	When Sheri Finstad looks down at her son, Isaac, in her arms, she says it amazes her.
Sheri Finstad	"There were times that I thought we would never be at this point."
	Sheri has epilepsy and up until a few years ago was suffering from seizures that couldn't be controlled with medication.
Sheri Finstad	"With epilepsy, you know, it can take so much from you."
	In 2013, as her seizures became worse and more frequent, Sheri lost some of her independence.
Sheri Finstad	"Eventually, I had to quit driving. And in doing so, it actually impacted my work."
	There were even times she thought she'd never be able to be a mom ...
Sheri Finstad	"... which was a dream I had had ever since I was, you know, a girl.
	Sheri underwent a brain mapping procedure at Mayo Clinic to determine if she would be a candidate for epilepsy surgery.
Gregory Worrell, M.D., Ph.D. Neurology Mayo Clinic	"I was with Sheri through that evaluation, and I'm a little disappointing because we found that she wasn't a candidate for epilepsy surgery."
	While surgery wasn't an option, Sheri was a candidate for a new device that helps control seizures using tiny electrical pulses — sort of like a pacemaker for the brain.
Device nats	"There we go."
Dr. Gregory Worrell	"It allows us to do two things we weren't able to do before: stimulate thalamus and hippocampus

	bilaterally, and sense — record from the brain — so that we actually capture her seizures. Be able to use that information to refine, better inform how we adjust the therapy.”
Sheri Finstad	"The number of seizures started going down pretty quick."
	Once her seizures were under better control with the brain stimulation, Sheri talked to her care team about her desire to become a mother.
Dr. Gregory Worrell	"We all sat down and put together a strategy for Sheri that, how can we pull her medications back and give her the best chance of a successful pregnancy. And the neurostimulation had a lot to do with that because her seizures were under such good control."
	In February of 2021, baby Isaac was born.
Chris Finstad Sheri's Husband	"It's been a great blessing."
Dr. Gregory Worrell	"We love these examples because it, of course, motivates us all, and it's why we do it."
Nats	"Isaac's first Fourth of July."
	Sheri's seizures aren't completely gone. She still has about one per month in her sleep ...
Sheri Finstad	"Yes."
	... and she'll continue to see her neurologists for follow-ups and adjustments.
Sheri Finstad	"I joke around with my doctors now, that I'm their boring patient. Like, when I come here, I'm like, 'Hey, I'm the boring patient now.'"
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.