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Stem Cell Treatment Credited for Giving Boy, 2, His Sight Back

TRE BURGOS

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Florida mother is amazed her son is gaining his vision back.

When he was a baby, 2-year-old Tre Burgos was diagnosed with optic nerve hypoplasia, a medical condition that results in underdevelopment of the optic nerves and causes blindness.

The cause of the condition is unknown, but it is more prevalent in people with albinism.

Two months ago, Abby Wolfe took her son Tre to China to undergo an experimental stem cell treatment.

"Two weeks prior to leaving we went over to Shands (HealthCare, a group of hospitals and medical centers affiliated of the University of Florida) over in Gainesville," said Wolfe. "His vision was rated at 20/1200, and when we went back three weeks ago his vision was rated at 20/200."

People with a vision of 20/1200 to 20/6000 are considered to be very severely impaired, according to Blind World magazine. People in this group are usually dependent on a cane or guide dog for mobility.

People with a vision of 20/200 are seriously impaired, but have mobility and can read with low-vision aids.

Tre's treatment involved four stem cell injections through an I.V. and a catheter through the spine.