

Baby Ella frozen to save her life

Fox News, Published March 03, 2011 NewsCore

A STILLBORN baby was miraculously brought back to life after being frozen for THREE days.

Little Ella Anderson had been dead for 25 minutes after she was starved of oxygen in the womb.

Medics managed to revive her but feared Ella could still die or suffer severe brain damage.

She was whisked 30 miles away to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and placed in a cooling blanket.

The pioneering procedure protects against brain damage by forcing the organ to repair itself. Ella's temperature plummeted from 37C to 33.5C.

After 72 hours it was slowly raised by half a degree at a time.

Dad Jason Anderson, 33, of Werrington, Peterborough, said: "When we went to see her in the hospital she was wired up to every machine and tube imaginable.

"I laid my hand on her head and she was ice cold to the touch."

The treatment worked and the youngster was allowed home just 11 days later.

Now nine-months-old Ella has stunned doctors with her incredible progress.

She still needs physiotherapy but scans have shown no abnormalities on her brain.

Dr Topun Austin, Ella's consultant paediatrician at Addenbrooke's said cooling treatment can significantly help babies who suffer a lack of oxygen to the brain during birth.

He said: "Cooling is now universally seen as the standard of care for all infants who suffer from a lack of oxygen at birth like Ella.

"It is very important that infants eligible for this cooling treatment are identified early, as the sooner cooling start the better."

The treatment is not available at every hospital.

Mum Rachel Claxton, 32, and window cleaner Jason have started a Facebook campaign to raise money for the unique procedure.



Ella undergoing treatment at Addenbrooke's Children's Hospital



Ella with dad Jason Anderson and mum Rachel Claxton