

## **Twin boys suffering from Juvenile Krabbe Disease become UK's first twin cord blood transplant recipients**

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Location: UK

Summary: Twin boys with a rare genetic condition have defied the odds after becoming the UK's first twin transplant patients. Luis and Kian King, from Sileby in Leicestershire, have Juvenile Krabbe Disease, which rapidly damages the nervous system and affects fewer than one in a million children. It left the boys, who were born three months early and also have cerebral palsy, unable to walk unaided.

Their parents, Laura Otter, 37, and Dean King, 39, were warned that the boys would lose their sight and ability to feed themselves, until they can no longer breathe unaided. The average life expectancy of a child with the disease is just 12. Following their diagnosis in October 2014, doctors told the family the only way they could harvest enough stem cells for both was to find two matching donors. None of the one million people on the Anthony Nolan donor register were found to be a match. But last year through a charity appeal Laura managed to identify two units of umbilical cord blood containing stem cells which matched the twins' tissue type. In April last year they underwent the stem cell transplants at Birmingham Children's Hospital.