

Jordan Cole Smelski

Jordan Graduated 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in May of 2014



**2002-2014**

# The Tico Times Reported This:



## Florida child dies after contracting amoeba from Costa Rican hot springs

L. Arias August 19, 2014

The death of 11-year-old Florida resident Jordan Smelski from a brain infection in July has prompted the Florida Health Department to issue an advisory alert after tests confirmed the infection was caused by an amoeba he contracted while vacationing in Costa Rica.

<http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/08/19/florida-child-dies-after-contracting-amoeba-from-costa-rican-hot-springs>

# This is the Only Place We Swam in Costa Rica:



**The Springs Resort & Spa – Arenal, Costa Rica**

We swam for 6 hours, Jordan went down the slide about 200 times

# Jordan's Timeline

Swam in hot spring with slide on Tuesday, June 24 for 6 hours

Headache worsened on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> laid down most of day

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> ok in morning, laid around in afternoon began vomiting at 11:00 PM ●

Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> still vomiting in morning, seemed better until 7:00 PM, hallucinations began 9:00 PM ●

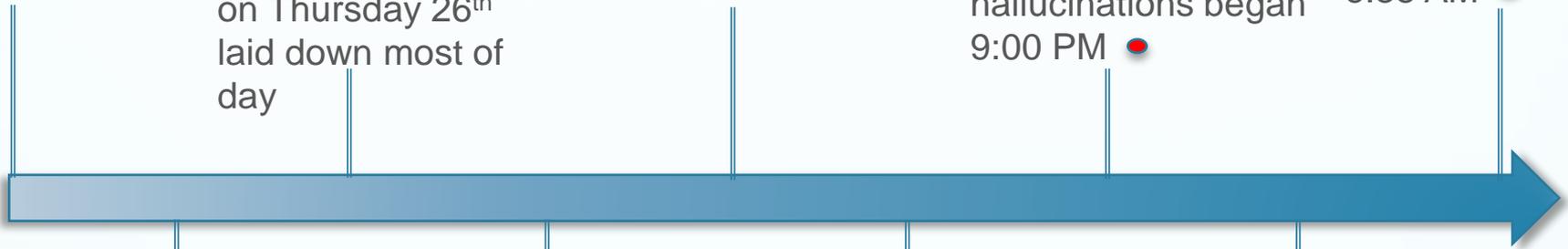
Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> neuro surgeon relieved pressure at 1:30 AM, THEN found amoebas, Jordan passed at 6:35 AM ●

Slight headache on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Traveled back to Orlando, headache most of day Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, became worse at night

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> still vomiting, rushed to ER, admitted early afternoon, had difficult night

Tuesday July 1<sup>st</sup> had a seizure after hallucinations at 1:30 AM, slipped into a coma ●



# Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

**Very Rare**

**Unless It's Your Child**

**Then These Are Just a Couple of 4 Letter Words**

# What Needs To Change?:

1. Need to Change Care Pathways to consider PAM, if a patient is diagnosed with either Viral, or Bacterial Meningitis and has had fresh water exposure.
2. Early detection/suspicion is critical, but starting treatment for PAM as soon as possible is imperative. The drug Miltefosine must be pre-positioned in states for quick access. Every minute counts to make a positive outcome.
3. We need to make PAM a nationally notifiable disease in every state. Many cases are either not identified, not counted, or are misdiagnosed.
4. Need to stop calling PAM “Rare”. With confirmed cases in Minnesota it is clear it can happen in every state. Medical staff need to be prepared for a PAM case, instead of thinking we will never see a case in our lifetime.
5. Need more research to understand why some people get PAM while others swimming in the same body of water do not. We also need to know how many PAM cases there really are each year.
6. Need a continuing education plan for emergency medical personnel to help identify possible PAM cases.

# Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)Is:

**99% Fatal**

**Yet**

**100% Preventable**

