# Mike Crease left paralysed after 30-hour hospital trolley wait at Countess of Chester Hospital



Mike Crease, a 46-year-old father from the UK, has been left paralysed after experiencing a harrowing ordeal at the Countess of Chester Hospital, where he was reportedly left on a hospital trolley for 30 hours. The father-of-one woke up one morning unable to use his legs due to a large abscess on his spinal column that had developed unnoticed. The abscess resulted in severe nerve damage, leaving him paralysed from the chest down.

Mike, who described himself as a previously "fit and healthy" man who enjoyed outdoor activities, was rushed to the Countess of Chester Hospital, which has been criticised for its care standards and ranked among the worst hospitals in the UK. During his stay, he alleges that he was "neglected and ignored" while confined to a corridor. When he was finally transferred to a specialist unit, medical professionals found the nerves in his spine had been crushed beyond repair.

The father underwent surgery, during which doctors removed a substantial portion of his spine to access and treat the abscess, but at that stage, the damage was irreversible. Following this, Mike spent seven months in hospital, battling blood poisoning, infections, bed sores, and persistent pain while also experiencing significant muscle atrophy, having lost 25kg in muscle mass.

Mike’s quality of life has dramatically changed. Once an outgoing and independent individual, he now describes himself as a "prisoner in his own home," struggling with severe depression and mental health challenges. He told MailOnline, "I'm a prisoner in my own home, severely depressed and mental health at its absolute lowest." The only relief he finds is in moments spent with his three-year-old son, Harley, who is too young to fully comprehend his father's condition. Mike expressed emotional pain about the anticipated moment when his son will realise that "daddy isn't standing."

The self-employed car dealer has since launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for innovative spinal implant and stem cell treatments abroad, as these therapies are not available through the NHS. The proposed treatment involves attaching a device to his spinal cord that could potentially reconnect nerves from his brain to the lower body, offering hope for regained mobility.

Mike lamented the loss of his independence and everyday abilities. "I've lost my job, my independence, the ability to drive, to play properly with my son," he said. Reflecting on his hopes for the future, he shared, "If I could walk again, the first thing I'd do is take Harley on holiday and jump straight into the pool together - he would love that but it kills me that I can't."

In addition to his initial ordeal, Mike faced further hardship when, on the day he was set to transfer to a specialist rehabilitation centre, a nurse discovered a severe pressure sore on his bottom, caused by an inappropriate mattress provided while he remained in hospital. The sore was described by Mike as "like a bullet hole," measuring 3cm wide and deep. Due to the rehab centre’s inability to care for patients with such sores, his transfer was delayed, extending his hospital stay by over 100 days. He expressed frustration at this delay, saying, "I was screaming for them to let me go home by the end."

The Countess of Chester Hospital has faced significant scrutiny in recent months. In February, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) flagged the hospital’s emergency care services as being at "significant risk," highlighting concerns that the safety and dignity of patients were being compromised. It was noted that "people receiving care in corridors had become normalised" at the hospital. The institution was ranked 116th out of 120 NHS trusts in England for patient care. Moreover, the hospital was the workplace of Lucy Letby, a nurse convicted in 2023 for multiple killings, with police currently expanding investigations to include corporate and gross negligence manslaughter related to events at the hospital.

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust responded to Mike’s case by expressing regret that his experience did not meet expectations, stating, "We take the confidentiality of our patients very seriously and so we will not comment further in relation to his individual case." They added a willingness to meet with Mike to discuss his care and experiences and encouraged anyone with concerns about the hospital’s care to contact their Patient Advice and Liaison Service.

The Department of Health and Social Care described Mike's case as "shocking," emphasising that no patient should endure such long waits in A&E. They acknowledged historical underfunding of the NHS but highlighted a £26 billion investment plan aimed at reforming services and improving A&E waiting times.

Mike’s situation remains critical as he prepares to travel abroad for pioneering treatment not currently offered on the NHS. His story raises concerns about the challenges faced by patients within overstretched healthcare services and the personal impact of extended hospital stays and delays in care.

The Daily Mail is reporting on the ongoing situation and the broader issues surrounding patient care at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.cqc.org.uk/press-release/countess-chester-hospital-nhs-foundation-trust-told-it-must-make-improvements> - The Care Quality Commission's press release details the findings from their inspection of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, emphasizing the need for urgent improvements in areas such as patient safety and care quality.
3. <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RJR05> - The Care Quality Commission's official page for the Countess of Chester Hospital provides detailed inspection reports and ratings, including areas where the hospital requires improvement.
4. <https://www.cqc.org.uk/press-release/cqc-publishes-report-following-inspections-countess-chester-hospital-nhs-foundation> - This press release from the Care Quality Commission discusses the outcomes of their inspections at the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, highlighting significant risks and areas needing improvement.
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