

Meena Communicating

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When I hear any sort of concerns that perhaps the clinic have, or they've made comments that I think – I wonder if this is a sign of perhaps things we should be considering? For example, they talked about in future father perhaps needing language therapy. And so my dad initially straight away was like, no, no, no, I'm fine. I'm perfectly capable of talking. I don't need any assistance.

His first language is in English, it's Gujarati. So if he was to have this language assistance, I believe it's a voice recording and I think he would feel more comfortable if he was able to do it in his own preferred language of communication. So dad was initially taken aback because he didn't realise that the condition could in future affect his voice.

He was very nervous about it because it made him realise that this isn't just a physical, this is kind of cognitive muscular, you know, physical, mental, cognitive, all of it. It's the whole package. And I think he found it a bit overwhelming and scary, whereas I just found it amazing that they have technology that allows him to speak in his own voice.

Which knowing my dad the way he is and, and being very nervous about changes and things, I thought this would just be perfect for him because he'd still feel like he's in control and he still, you know, has his voice even when he doesn't. And so I found it really cool and innovative. And, you know, I was really excited by it.

My dad, not so much initially, but when I sat down and I explained to him, you know, what would you, would you rather know now so that you're able to pre-empt that situation? Or would you rather wait until it's kind of too late? Because, you know, that could happen. And the problem with MND is it's just very individualistic. So there is no clear timeline for any one person. It just varies so much from person to person.

But once we had the, you know... he had a few questions and he was, had a few concerns, which I try to answer to the best of my ability and, and then actually agreed to seeing the lady who then further discussed how it would work. And once dad had that conversation, he realised it wasn't as daunting as he thought. And he actually thought it would be fun because then, you know, he was coming up with his funky phrases that he could record, like telling me off.