

Ian and Deanne **Sex and intimacy**

Ian

All our life we've had a loving relationship and there are barriers now in terms of mobility and just practicality. Even with the PEG, we can't really hug each other.

Deanne

But without strength as well, you can't even lift your arms really. Now can you turn, hold or hug? So yeah, things change unfortunately, even though you may still get those feelings and urges.

Ian

There's a lot of things with my medication that it's suppressing, but it's the physical part of it and it's quite amusing, isn't it? Because it has been, I can't move and sometimes can't get out of bed very easily. So it's just what it is.

Deanne

It is quite amusing and luckily we've been able to laugh about it as well, haven't we? But it's sad again, because you still have those feelings and yeah, it's just one of those things.

The thing is, the main thing is to still support one another and love one another. And somebody came up and gave me a hug and it was really, it felt lovely. Because there's always that in between us, isn't there?

Not that – I talk to it and I'm quite happy with it. But yeah, it's it's a bit of a barrier if I'm worried about it, if it looks a bit red or something or now "Come on, you're okay, you're okay".

Ian

We haven't given it a name.

Deanne

I think we knew that, you know, this tube would sort of affect things, but not before that. I think we just carried on, didn't we? Or tried to carry on, but we didn't actually have a conversation with anyone or read anything about it.

So, I mean, possibly we could have read something about it if we'd have gone looked at the book we were given or gone on the MND website. I'm sure there would be something there.

Ian

And also it's, it's occurred naturally with that. We've not had to discuss it because we deeply understand each other. So it's just happened and evolved and it's just the way our lives changed.