

EXCLUSIVE BY EMILY HALL

A STUDENT who lost half of her skull after a tumour was misdiagnosed as an allergy to her rabbit has had her head rebuilt with a 3D printer.

Tiffany Cullern was 12 when she lost her sense of smell but she was repeatedly told it was just her immune system over-reacting to pet hair and dust mites.

Her family got rid of pet bunny Marley but the problems remained as a tennis ball-sized tumour slowly ate its way into Tiffany's brain.

When specialists finally removed it her brain swelled so much she had to have half of her skull taken away.

Tiffany, 20, was left with five inches of her head missing for three months before it was rebuilt with a plate made with the 3D printer.

Layer upon layer of material was printed out and shaped to a mould of her skull. The implants are typically made from titanium, plastic or occasionally calcium phosphate, the main constituent of bone.

Tiffany said: "It was very, very scary and embarrassing walking around with half my head missing. I could stick my whole hand into the hole where my skull should have been. I just tried not to think of it."

Tiffany can't remember what it's like to be able to smell. At 14 a GP diagnosed an allergy and gave her nasal sprays and anti-histamine. At 16 she was given more pills after a hospital trip.

LUMP

Then an allergy test suggested problems with rabbit fur and mites. Her plight persisted until a lump was finally spotted when Tiffany, by now at college, had a CT scan. Even then doctors believed it was just a cyst. But a biopsy revealed a super-rare tumour.

Tiffany was referred to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital and told she had juvenile psammomatoid ossifying fibroma. Although benign, the tumours destroy bone and can seriously damage the brain.

She had radical surgery while studying at Swindon College. It took six hours to drill through her skull. Neurosurgeons held her brain as ear, nose and throat specialists made an incision through her eye to pull the tumour out through her nostrils.

Her skull was put back but dismantled two days later due to brain swelling. Tiffany was later sent home until her new skull could be "printed".

She passed two exams and worked part-time at Morrisons while awaiting her implant. And she added: "I got used to not having a skull, but feel lucky to have it back."

I needed 3D printed skull implant after NHS tumour blunder

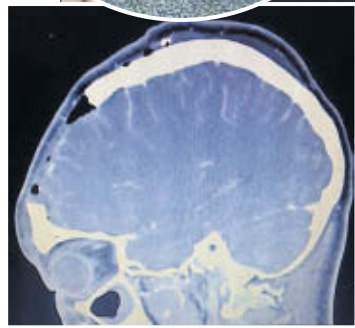
Tiffany's growth misdiagnosed as allergy to pet rabbit



MAIMED Tiff had half of her skull removed



BUG BUNNY illness blamed on pet Marley



SKULL GAP Bone shown in white, with section missing

A LASS, POOR YORICK Smiling Tiffany back on the mend and holding a copy of 3D skull implant

Two killed in IS shoot-out with police

THE leader of an Islamic State "sleeper cell" and one of his group have been killed in a shoot-out with police in Russia.

The gun battle took place late on Friday in the Stavropol region, 750 miles south of Moscow, according to Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee. Stavropol is closer to the troubled Chechen Republic.

Shooting broke out when police tried to stop a car, and its occupants opened fire, the committee revealed in a statement.

Officers found bomb-making components in the car and later discovered IS literature at one of the suspects' residences.

Pervert used spy cameras to film girls

A PEEPING Tom who preyed on young girls was snared after police found hidden spy cameras.

Meirion Sherlock, 55, filmed four teenagers showering, changing and using the toilet.

His purpose was sexual gratification, Swansea Crown Court heard. Judge Paul Thomas QC told him: "There is only one word for what you did - perverted."

Sherlock, of Llanelli, South Wales, pleaded guilty to voyeurism and making indecent photographs of a child.

He was given a three-year community order and a sexual harm prevention order and will go on the sex offenders' register.

Star cyclist is killed on road after race win

ITALIAN champion cyclist Michele Scarponi has died after a crash with a van during a training ride.

He had finished fourth in the Tour of the Alps behind Brit winner Geraint Thomas on Friday.

The married dad of two was riding near his home in Filottrano, north of Rome, yesterday. Scarponi, 37, claimed victory in Monday's opening stage of the Tour of the Alps.

He won the 2011 Giro d'Italia after Alberto Contador was stripped of the title for doping.

His Astana team said: "This is a tragedy too big to be written." They described him as a "great champion" and a "special guy".

Broadchurch stars kept in dark on TV rape fiend

EXCLUSIVE BY EMMA PRYER TV Editor
BROADCHURCH stars were filming for **SIX MONTHS** before finding out who had been cast as a rapist.

Actor Mark Bazeley, who played lovecheat mechanic Jim Atwood, recalled reading early scripts with co-star Olivia Coleman.

He said: "Olivia turned to me after the read-through for

the first few episodes. She said: 'It's you! I know it's you!' And I thought, 'ah OK.' I believed it was for a while."

In the final episode of the ITV series - which starred David Tennant and Olivia, left - it emerged a teenager raped garden centre worker Trish after being groomed by evil fishing supplies boss Leo Humphries. Mark, 46, added:

"Filming Broadchurch was like being in M15. What happens in Broadchurch stays in Broadchurch! We started filming last April and it was around October that we saw the last episodes.

"Even then the rapists were named 'X' and 'Y'. It was only when we saw who was playing those scenes we realised."

■ Broadchurch Series 3 and Broadchurch The Complete Series are released on DVD and blu-ray tomorrow.

20 DVDs to give away

WE have 20 copies of Broadchurch Series 3 on DVD to give away to lucky readers.

To be in with a chance of winning, email TV@trinitymirror.com with the subject header "Broadchurch", your name and address, by Saturday April 29, 2017.

Standard MGN competition terms apply. See mirror.co.uk/rules

