

Woman 'sentenced to death' by drug denial

Katy, 32, denied treatment which is available to English patients

EXCLUSIVE by Antony Gedge

A WOMAN who suffers from an extremely rare disease claims she has been "sentenced to death" because the Welsh Government is refusing to give her drugs.

Katy Derl-Davis, 32, suffers from acromegaly, a tumour in the pituitary gland which releases increased levels of growth hormones and causes joint pain, enlarged bones and headaches.

There are only around three or four cases per million people in the UK each year and hers is one of the worst kinds of the disease, which can't be treated by radiotherapy or the medication used by other patients.

Katy's husband, Jeremy, has accused health minister Lesley Griffiths and the authorities of failing in a duty of care to his wife, because she has been denied the drug Pegvisomant despite both her consultant and GP insisting it would be hugely beneficial and was very



Katy, seen with husband Jeremy, before the disease progressed

likely to add years to her life.

The drug is available to patients in England.

Katy, who is an Aberystwyth University graduate living in Cwmerfyn, near Penrhyncoch, said: "Day-to-day life is very difficult. I'm 32, but I feel like a pensioner. I ache. The headaches are horrific. It's life-changing. It's gradual, but constant. I can't leave the house other than to go to hospital or the surgery."

And Jeremy said: "This decision could take years off Katy's life and these people in Cardiff are doing nothing. They've sentenced her to death so they can buy Cardiff Airport. They don't seem to care. This is my wife."

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John and Caryl Clarke with daughter Hafwen making the sign for please

Please get me a Welsh sign tutor

PARENTS of a profoundly deaf eight-year-old girl are battling to get a Welsh-medium sign language tutor for her. John and Caryl Clarke say they are prepared to take legal action if a learning support assistant is not found for their daughter Hafwen at Penrhyncoch Primary School.

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