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'Optician saved my life'

By David Morris

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AN amazing spot by a Potters Bar optician has saved a young girl's life.

Jack Levin, of Davidson Opticians in Darkes Lane, saw a tumour in young Serena Baron-Servini's eye and immediately sent the then seven-year-old to the specialist eye hospital Moorfields in north London.

On the same night mum Amelia Servini was told her daughter had a brain tumour and had to be operated on immediately. Amazingly the tumour had been missed by GPs who Amelia took Serena to see after she had fallen off her bike.

Speaking now for the first time about their ordeal two years ago, Amelia told the *Potters Bar Edition*: "I took Serena to the doctors on numerous occasions because she was complaining of headaches, sickness and other symptoms, but after checking her over the doctor couldn't find anything wrong.

"It was going on for about a month and was getting worse, she was waking up in the night screaming in pain and then she started complaining of double vision so I decided to take her to the opticians for an eye test."

That proved to be a decision bigger than Amelia could have ever imagined. She continued: "Alarm bells should have started ringing but they didn't.

"I didn't think it was that serious, you

don't when it's your own child, but Jack noticed something the doctors couldn't and told me I had to go to Moorfields straight away.

"He didn't tell me exactly what was wrong, just that I had to go immediately and he wrote a letter for me to pass on to Moorfields to advise them to see us straight away.

"Jack told me if it wasn't serious I could come back and tell him off."

At Moorfields, they discovered it wasn't just a serious problem – it was a life-threatening one.

Serena was sent immediately to University College London, where she had a brain scan that confirmed a mass on her brain.

On the same night they then travelled to Great Ormond Street Hospital where Serena underwent a MRI scan.

That identified a brain tumour which required an emergency seven-hour operation the next day.

It was a whirlwind 24 hours for both mum and daughter.

Potters Bar resident Amelia continued: "Everything happened so quick and was so shocking.

"In a way it was good we didn't have time to think too much, we literally travelled from place to place in such a short time."

The cancerous tumour was removed and young Serena underwent both chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Now, two years later, Serena has returned to full-time education against all the odds and is enrolled at Pope Paul Primary School on Baker Street.

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Optometrist Jack Levin and Serena Baron-Servini, now nine



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