

operation. We were not told of the results of the catheter examination. James was discharged on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1991.

#### Initial Consultation with Surgeon

28. My parents and I took James to Bristol Children's Hospital to see Mr Wisheart in early November 1991. He explained the operation that James was going to have. He drew diagrams to make it easier to understand. I could never take everything in at any of the meetings with Dr. Jordan, Dr. Joffe or with Mr Wisheart. My mother would understand what we were being told, and when we got home she would explain everything to us. At this meeting we were told that during the operation the band on the aorta would be removed and the hole in James's heart would be repaired. I thought that Mr. Wisheart said that the operation had a 95% success rate but my mother's recollection is that Mr. Wisheart said that the success rate was 85%. I understood this to be Mr. Wisheart's opinion success rate, as did both of my parents. Mr Wisheart would be doing the operation, it was his success rate that mattered. He said that he knew what he was doing, he said that he had confidence in himself, he believed that the operation would be a success. We were not told that there were other centres where the operation could be carried out. We were not given the choice for the operation to be performed anywhere else. No comparison of success rates at Bristol with anywhere else was provided to us.
29. We had been told by nursing staff on previous visits that Mr Wisheart was the best in his field. Dr Jordan and Dr Joffe had endorsed this opinion. Mr Wisheart told us that James would have to have the operation before he was five years old, otherwise he would die. This was the first time anyone had actually said outright that James would die without the operation. We were told that James' operation would take place the following year. After