

# Amber's life in 'God's hands'

By JUDI DOHERTY  
Staff Reporter

MILFORD — Four-year-old Amber Calistro is back home again and she is dying.

Returning from the Bahamas two weeks ago, Amber has been in St. Raphael's Hospital since Sunday undergoing tests to determine if there is anything — anything at all — that can be done to help her.

"It's in the hands of God now," her mother, Patricia Calistro, said Wednesday.

The tiny girl now is being given medication to relieve the increasing pain, but there is little else that can be done at this stage to stop the huge ulcerating tumor that has eroded her skull and her brain.

Amber and her mother had been on Grand Bahama Island since May where the little girl was being treated for cancer at the Immunology Researching Center, operated by Lawrence Burton, who practices a much-



AMBER CALISTRO  
*Treatment fails*

publicized but controversial cancer therapy.

Amber's mother still believes the

treatments initially had some positive effect. "The cancer just got ahead," she said.

What Amber needs most right now is support from her friends, Calistro said.

"Amber needs to know she's not alone. She's scared. I don't want her to feel alone," her mother said. Calistro, an artist who maintains a studio in Milford, said people, if they wish, can write to the child at P.O. Box 505, Milford 06460.

Calistro, who had lived with her daughter in a small apartment in Milford before going to the Bahamas, is hoping to rent a house and give Amber a real home before the child dies.

"Amber's dream has always been a house and a yard and a room of her own. I've never been able to give her those," her mother said.

Calistro said she has enough money

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## Tot's life nearing end as brain tumor grows

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to rent a small house, but what she doesn't have is time to look for place. Anyone who knows of a small house for rent can contact Calistro at her Milford post office box.

Amber left the hospital Wednesday. Calistro had been hoping doctors could surgically remove some of the tumor, but she said that even to attempt removal of the huge growth at this point would require removal of much of the skull.

"It's just gone too far. It would

make a monster out of her," her mother said. Radiation therapy might be used on a spot basis if the tumor develops in other parts of the child's body, Calistro said.

Amber is in a lot of pain, but she still does have periods when she feels well, her mother said. "She's just such an amazing child. You just can't believe the shock of seeing this beautiful child with that huge, ugly thing."

Calistro herself is bearing up well most of the time.

"I do have my moments," she said. "It's hard to accept the will of God."