

# INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: TOMSK  
REGION: SIBERIA**

**APRIL 14-26, 2009  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION IV**



**PATIENT PROFILE**

Child	Dameli S.
Age	1 year, 10 months
DOB	June 11, 2007
Birth Wt.	not available
Current Wt.	24 lbs 9 oz
Home	Uralsk, Kazakhstan 1,864 mi from Tomsk
Mother	Raigul
Father	Azamat
Diagnosis	S/p Tetralogy of Fallot (2007, Samara), Pulmonary valve atresia
Procedures	Open-heart surgery, Insert mechanical pulmonary valve, close VSD April 21, 2009
Discharged	May 9, 2009

## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Damelli lives with both her parents in an apartment in Uralsk. Her father works as a driver, and her mother, Raigul, worked in an orphanage prior to giving birth to Damelli. Raigul studied French in college and also understands some English.

Damelli's medical treatment at the Tomsk Cardiology Institute will be sponsored by the Russian Charity Fund. Support from the Fund includes train fare for the family to and from Tomsk—an arduous 1,864-mile journey each way.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Damelli was diagnosed with heart disease when she was 3 days old. She turned blue whenever she cried. Her heart defect, Tetralogy of Fallot, is actually a constellation of four different defects. Sometimes, all four can be repaired during one open-heart surgery; in other cases, such as Damelli's, staged surgical procedures are necessary over a period of several years.

When Damelli was almost 5 months old, her parents took her via train to Samara (in Russia's Volga Region), where they spent one month: two weeks before Damelli's surgery, and two weeks post-operatively. After the surgery, she continued to have difficulty breathing normally.

## CURRENT CONDITION

Damelli is an active 22-month-old who loves to cuddle with her mother. She has big, wide eyes and eagerly takes in all her surroundings. She loves to walk and explore, but does it best when her mother is nearby.

Damelli's surgery on April 21 goes well. The surgeons are able to insert a mechanical pulmonary valve (Damelli had been born without this valve which feeds unoxygenated blood to the lungs) and to close the holes in Damelli's heart. Raigul is able to see her daughter in the PICU the day after surgery, and Damelli is medically stable: awake, quiet, and comfortable.

Raigul has a clear understanding of her daughter's heart disease. She knows that Damelli's new valve will need to be replaced in 7-10 years. (Normal human valves are much more durable than mechanical ones.) But Raigul is optimistic that her daughter will have a full, normal life.

*Based on an interview conducted in Tomsk by Heart to Heart volunteer Lynn Graham, RN through Russian interpreter Olga Chernyakova.*