



THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Leonardo’s parents, Doris and Martin, are both in their late thirties. They both teach mathematics at the secondary school level. Soon after birth, Baby Leonardo was transported to INCOR, Lima by ambulance from their home in the city of Trujillo, a 10-hour drive. Trujillo is the third most populous city in the country, 300 miles away, with a population of nearly 700,000. While Leonardo is hospitalized at INCOR, Doris and Martin live at a nearby Ronald McDonald Charity House. Doris is on maternity leave and Martin was granted parental leave to care for their sick child. Back home, they live with Doris’ parents who are frail, but helpful.

CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Two years ago, Doris and Martin lost their three-year-old child, so Leonardo’s life-threatening heart condition is particularly frightening for them. In addition, Martin has a medical condition that made conceiving a challenge: they had been trying for a long time to have a second child. During our interview, Martin was able to choke back his tears, but Doris wept throughout.

Doris’ pregnancy was normal; she delivered by C-section. Transportation by ambulance was necessary because Leonardo’s multiple and complex heart defects require immediate medical attention. His diagnosis includes a relatively rare condition, which the parents are thankful to have had well explained to them by INCOR doctors. Some of their anxiety was also allayed by the news that Heart to Heart’s team of highly advanced specialists would take part in Leonardo’s surgical care.

CURRENT CONDITION

To repair Leonardo’s heart – to correct the anatomical defect he was born with – will require staged surgical procedures. The first operation, performed jointly by the Heart to Heart-INCOR team, is a palliative procedure called the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig shunt. The BTT shunt was developed by three people working closely together at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in 1943. The introduction of the BTT shunt represents the advent of surgical treatment of children with critical cyanotic (blue) heart disease and has saved the lives of thousands upon thousands of children like Leonardo. For Baby Leonardo, a BTT shunt will improve blood flow to the lungs allowing him to grow and hopefully make him a better candidate for more definitive surgery later in childhood. Heart to Heart is actively working to advance care in Peru to increase access to both palliative and corrective heart surgery to reach the more than 65% of children with CHD there who currently do not have access.

PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Leonardo F.
Age	20 days old
DOB	May 19, 2016
Weight	Birth & current: 6 lbs 10 oz
Home	Trujillo
Diagnosis	PA/VSD, MAPCAs, hypoplastic central pulmonary arteries
Heart surgery	Right modified BTT shunt June 8, 2016
Discharged from hospital	June 21, 2016

Based on an interview conducted in Spanish by Heart to Heart volunteer Rose Glickman, PhD.