

INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SITE: TOMSK
REGION: SIBERIA

APRIL 14-26, 2009
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL
MISSION IV



PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Maria Z.
Age	13 months
DOB	March 17, 2008
Birth Wt.	4 lbs 11 oz
Current Wt.	15 lbs 6 oz
Home	Izhevsk, Republic of Udmurtiya 1,195 mi from Tomsk
Mother	Natalya
Father	Aleksandr
Diagnosis	TGA, VSD, ASD Single coronary artery S/p PA band (2008, Tomsk)
Procedures	Open-heart surgery P/A debanding, Arterial switch operation, close VSD April 22, 2009
Discharged	June 5, 2009

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Maria lives with her parents, her 14-year-old brother Maxim, and all four of her grandparents, in an apartment in Izhevsk, the capital of Udmurt Republic. Her mother, Natalya, is a trained operating room nurse; however, she currently works as a midwife. She has a very clear understanding of Maria's condition.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

During Heart to Heart's 2008 mission to Tomsk, when Maria was 1 month old, she underwent open-heart surgery to have a band placed around her pulmonary artery. This palliative procedure was undertaken so that she would grow sufficiently well to later undergo a second, more complicated open-heart surgery (known as an "arterial switch"), to more fully repair her heart.

When the joint Heart to Heart-Tomsk team examines Maria this year, we are happy to see that the first surgery was indeed successful: Maria now weighs 15 lbs! She is ready for her second surgery.

Demonstrating how to "stage" open-heart procedures has proven to be a very important part of Heart to Heart's work in Russia. Not every cardiac team has the experience or resources to completely repair a complicated defect all at once. It is sometimes quite advantageous to perform a sequence of two, or even three, open-heart surgeries to ensure the best possible patient outcome.

CURRENT CONDITION

Maria and her parents arrived in Tomsk by train on April 9. Maria's father, an economist, was able to join his wife and daughter because he had recently lost his job due to the economic crisis. He is staying nearby in a rented apartment while Natalya remains with Maria in the hospital.

Maria is very active and seems quite happy, wearing a great big smile. But, she is visibly blue. Natalya doesn't feel that Maria eats well, but says laughingly that her daughter never tires. Maria isn't walking on her own yet, but can rapidly "cruise," holding onto any furniture she can find.

On Wednesday, April 22, Maria undergoes the long-awaited second open-heart surgery that will allow her heart to function normally. The successful surgery is led by veteran Heart to Heart pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, Gary Raff, MD, from the University of California at Davis Medical Center. Gary is the Lead Surgeon for Heart to Heart's sponsored site in Samara (Volga Region); this is his first trip to Tomsk, but his seventh mission to Russia with Heart to Heart.

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