



Heart to Heart Global Cardiac Care

Measurably Expanding Access Since 1989

SITE: TORREON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
LOCATION: TORREON, MEXICO

DECEMBER 05-15, 2018
EXPLORATORY SURGICAL-
EDUCATIONAL MISSION



THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

One of the many beautiful children we met on our first day of patient exams was six-month-old Aitana – a bubbly baby girl dressed in a pink onesie brought to the hospital by her worried parents, Ricardo and Fatima. Aitana’s young parents were accompanied and supported by Aitana’s aunt and grandparents. All of us were captivated by Aitana’s thick curly hair and big brown eyes, which put a smile on all of our faces.

CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

“When Aitana was just days old, we started noticing that when she wanted to yawn, she couldn’t finish: she would turn purple,” her mother, Fatima, told us. “We decided to take her to the doctor, who told us it was ‘just a murmur.’” But Aitana would constantly get a cold or cough, she did not eat well, and was underweight. She also exhibited shortness of breath.

Eventually, Aitana was diagnosed with CHD: she had been born with multiple holes between the lower two chambers of her heart, medically known as ventricular septal defects (VSDs), the most common of all childhood heart defects. Aitana would need open heart surgery in order for surgeons to close the hole, and render her heart functional.

CURRENT CONDITION

On Tuesday morning, December 11, 2018, Aitana became the first child to ever undergo open heart surgery at Torreon University Hospital. Her operation was made possible through the collaborative efforts of surgeons Gary Raff and Gerardo Serrano with strong support before, during, and after surgery from the fantastically skilled members of the joint Heart to Heart-Torreon medical team.

Throughout the surgical week of our mission, baby Aitana’s post-operative recovery proceeded well under the close watch of ICU specialists and the loving support of her grateful family. Some time later, Aitana’s mother followed up with us, “Thanks to Heart to Heart, my baby is super well.” Fatima is excited at the prospect of watching Aitana grow up to be healthy and happy. She sympathizes with other parents whose children are born sick. Fatima knows firsthand how terrifying it feels to watch your baby suffer.

PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Aitana A.
Age	6 months old
DOB	June 6, 2018
Weight	13 lbs 11 oz
Home	Matamoros
Diagnosis	Multiple ventricular septal defects (VSDs); patent foramen ovale (PFO)
Open heart surgery	Ventricular septal defect (VSD) closure; patent foramen ovale (PFO) closure December 11, 2018

Based on an interview conducted in Spanish by Hannah Hunter, Heart to Heart staff with help from an interpreter.