



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

Six-year-old Alejandro is his parents' only child. Maria is a stay-at-home mom; Alejandro's father is an agricultural field worker. They live two hours away from Torreon, in the small ranch town near Matamoros, on the Texas-Mexico border. A bright, energetic first-grader, Alejandro enjoys playing soccer and anything and everything related to Spiderman – Hombre Araña in Spanish. He is so fond of the superhero that sometimes his parents affectionately call him Peter, for the character's true identity, Peter Parker. When he grows up, Alejandro tells us, he wants to be a different kind of superhero, a doctor who can help children struggling with heart defects, like he is. (Heart to Heart will be patiently waiting for him to join our ranks!)

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

The family first learned that Alejandro had a heart problem when he was five years old. What they thought was a bad case of the flu turned out to be something far more complex. His primary physician heard a heart murmur and recommended that Alejandro see a specialist. The family had to wait a year and a half for the first available appointment. Finally, a doctor in Torreon diagnosed Alejandro with patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). The ductus arteriosus is an open connection between the aorta and the pulmonary artery which is supposed to close spontaneously shortly after birth. But, Alejandro's did not close. His PDA, if left untreated, could lead to heart failure.

At the time of his diagnosis, Alejandro and his family also learned about Heart to Heart's upcoming visit to Torreon, and were pleased to hear that their son might have the opportunity to undergo surgery locally with the aid of Heart to Heart specialists.

CURRENT CONDITION

Alejandro was operated on by the Heart to Heart-Torreon team on December 10, 2018. The team performed a PDA ligation. He is expected to make a full recovery and live a normal, healthy life. Had he not undergone this surgery, Alejandro would have been at risk for endocarditis (an infection of the heart tissue) and, eventually, heart failure. With his mended heart, he is now free to live life like any other six-year-old, a small superhero to his family!

PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Alejandro G.
Age	6 years old
DOB	November 1, 2012
Weight	Current: 43 lbs
Home	Matamoros
Diagnosis	Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)
Surgical procedure	Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) ligation December 10, 2018

Based on an interview conducted by Morgan Michna, Heart to Heart staff, with the aid of an interpreter.