

INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: SAMARA
REGION: VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT**

**OCTOBER 1-12, 2008
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL
MISSION VI**



PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Dasha D.
Age	5 years old
DOB	August 7, 2003
Birth Wt.	6 lbs 3 oz
Current Wt.	41 lbs 13 oz
Home	Samara
Mother	Irina, 39
Father	Sergei, 40
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot
Procedure	Open-heart surgery October 8, 2008
Discharged	October 14, 2008

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Dasha's parents (Irina and Sergei) own an apartment in Samara. Sergei works in transportation, and Irina stays at home with Dasha. Sergei's son from his first marriage also lives with them. Sergei is an involved father, and Irina comments that Sergei has learned to cook because she and Dasha are often in the hospital.

Irina and Sergei also share with their extended family a dacha in the countryside, with a garden and a sauna. They spend as much time at the dacha as they can, and Dasha will recuperate there.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

A prenatal echo showed the possibility that Irina's baby would have a heart defect. However, Irina opted not to have an amniocentesis because of the inherent risk. She gave birth at the Samara Regional Cardiac Center's maternity ward, where Dasha's serious but not urgent heart condition was immediately fully diagnosed.

The Heart to Heart doctors examined Dasha when she was 2 months old, and recommended scheduling surgery at a later date. Dasha had no symptoms at that time and was developing normally.

In 2005, when Dasha was two, the joint Heart to Heart-Samara team performed Dasha's first open-heart surgery.

CURRENT CONDITION

At a routine examination in 2008, cardiologists discovered that a band of muscle had grown near the lower end of Dasha's heart and recommended a follow-up operation. The family was disappointed to learn this, but they were reassured by the Samara doctors' explanation. Irina was not comfortable talking about it to Dasha, who actually asked "Will I have an operation?" When Dasha realized that she would indeed be having another operation, her face showed seriousness and understanding uncommon for her age. (Dasha's surgery is featured in "The Heart to Heart Story," a short documentary produced by Outlier Films.)

Sergei made chicken soup from scratch for Dasha and brought it to the hospital the day after her operation.

Irina laughingly said that she hopes not to see us again. "Nothing personal," she smiled. When we thanked her for agreeing to our interview as well as to multiple press interviews throughout the mission, she said that she was happy to do it, that it was "just a drop in the ocean compared to what Heart to Heart has done for my child."

Based on an interview conducted in Samara, in Russian, by Heart to Heart volunteer Natasha Lusin, PhD.