



Russian Gift of Life

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INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION

Together, "Helping Heal the World, One Heart at a Time"



Kemerovo, Siberia, Russia

August 2009

Medical Trip August 1-15, 2009

The International Children's Heart Foundation made its second medical mission trip to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology on August 1-15. The team, led by Cardiovascular Surgeons Dr. Ali Dodge Khatami and Dr. Yakov Elgudin consisted of one OR nurse, one perfusionist, two intensivists, five PICU nurses, one cardiologist, one anesthesiologist, one respiratory therapist and one student/ICHF intern. The team came from five different countries, all joining together for one cause -- to save the lives of children with congenital heart defects.

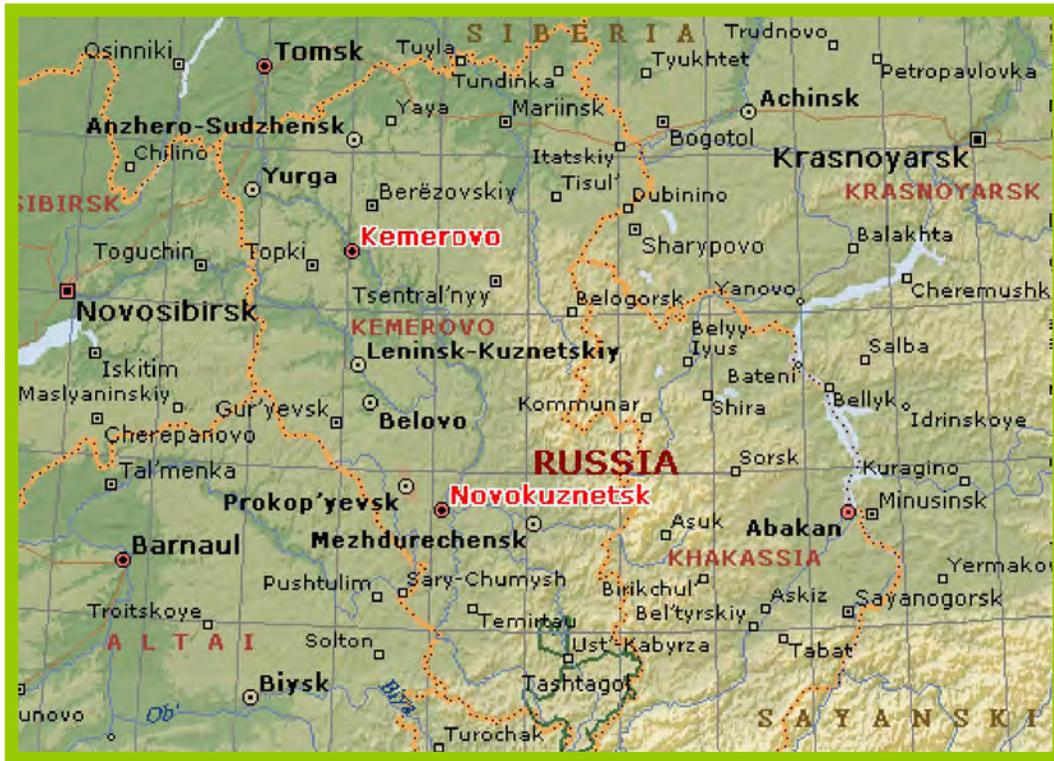
There is an estimated 250 to 270 children with congenital heart defects that need open-heart surgery each year in Kemerovo. Only about 60 to 80 children receive the surgery they need. The Division of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease was established in Kemerovo four years ago and the surgeons have been performing open heart surgery on children over 12 months of age only. But a large number of children with congenital heart disease need to be operated on during the first year of life or they will die. Children who need surgery emergently are being transported to other centers far away. Due to transportation problems and the critical condition of the children, many do not survive.



During our team's visit to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology, 13 children received operations that would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Additionally, our volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians worked along side the local staff teaching them the latest techniques in taking care of children with congenital heart defects.

This medical mission trip would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors and volunteers. The International Children's Heart Foundation extends its sincere thanks to Russian Gift of Life for helping make this trip possible and for providing hope to 13 children and their families. The parents of the children that benefited from these operations were extremely happy and appreciative of the "gift of life" that their children had received.

Kemerovo, Siberia, Russia



The city is located 2,164 miles east of Moscow. It is an important industrial city developed during Soviet times with important chemical, fertilizer, and manufacturing industries and is linked to western Russia by a branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the city's industries have experienced a severe decline, creating high levels of unemployment.

Over 3 million people live here, mostly in large cities. In fact, Kemerovo Region is a very urbanized part of Russia, with about 87% of the population residing in cities. Kemerovo Region is also known as Kuzbass - from "Kuznetsk basin" - the name of the largest coal deposit on earth, which is located here.

Siberia is a very large area stretching from the Ural Mountains on the west to the Pacific Ocean on the east. All of Europe could fit inside of Siberia several times over. It is a part of Russia, the largest country in the world.

Nikolai Pimenov



Nikolai is 11 years old. Since his father passed away and his mother is unable to take care of him, he lives in an orphanage in Novosibirsk, about 3 hours from Kemerovo. He went to Kemerovo in hopes of receiving surgery with the ICHF last year but due to the large volume of children already on the list, he had to wait. This year he traveled to Kemerovo on July 21 and was the very first surgery of our mission.

Nikolai was diagnosed as having a partial atrioventricular canal and an atrial septal defect, meaning that he had a hole in the septum between his two atria or upper chambers of his heart. Because of this, oxygenated blood coming from the lungs that should be pumped to the body mixes with deoxygenated blood coming from the body on its way to his lungs. This mixing causes the heart to be inefficient as it is generally sending already oxygenated blood back to the lungs as well as a higher volume of blood flowing to the lungs. Additionally, the partial atrioventricular canal means that the mitral valve is also defective and needs to be repaired.



Thanks to the sponsors and team members, Nikolai received a successful operation. He will now be able to play his favorite sports without having to worry about being out of breath. He would like for the sponsors and team members to know " *this operation meant a lot to me and I am very grateful to everyone who made this surgery possible and to the doctors and nurses who took care of me.* "

Danilla Nekrasov

Age: 11 months

Diagnosis: Ventricular Septal Defect

Danilla lives in an orphanage in Kemerovo because his father passed away and his mother is in prison. His mother refuses to give up rights to him so he is unable to be adopted. He was brought to the hospital by a nurse that his mother hired who had only known him for three days.



Despite his unfortunate situation, he was an incredibly happy ICU patient. His VSD was repaired with a patch on Friday, August, 9 and he recovered very quickly.



Diana Skryanbina



Diana is 10 months old and has tetralogy of Fallot. In tetralogy of Fallot, there is a large hole between the lower chambers of the heart. The hole is called a ventricular septal defect. The red blood and blue blood mix.

Also, the aorta is large and is over the top of the hole. The lung artery, the valve, and the area just beneath the lung artery valve are small and narrowed. This makes it hard for the blood to go to the lungs and the child may turn blue (cyanotic). This is exactly what was happening to Diana.

Diana required surgery to increase the blood flow to her lungs. On Wednesday, August 5, she received a VSD patch, pulmonary artery banding and a right ventricular outflow tract resection. She will need another surgery to fully correct her defect.



Her mother was with her in the ICU every day bringing her toys and games to play. She is very grateful for this opportunity.

Kirill Kirienko



Kirill, pictured here with his mother, is a 1 year old little boy. He was diagnosed at birth with PAVC, or partial atrioventricular canal. This is a congenital heart defect that includes a spectrum of anomalies that differ from those of the complete form because the ventricular septal defect is absent. In partial atrioventricular canal, two separate atrioventricular valve annuli are usually present. It accounts for about 4% of all congenital heart defects and its incidence is estimated to be 2 per 1,000 live births.



On Tuesday, August 4, Kirill received a complete repair of his PAVC. He is an only child so his parents were thrilled with this successful operation.

His mother and father would like to thank the sponsors and team members that gave their son the chance to live life like a normal little boy.

Marina Michalets

Marina is a beautiful 1 year old little girl. She lives with her parents, Lena and Alexander and her older brother in Polysaevo, an hour and a half bus ride from Kemerovo. She likes cartoons, crawling and bubbles. She was diagnosed with tetralogy of Fallot when she was born. She had to remain in the critical care ward for two weeks following birth to examine her heart murmurs.

At nine months of age her cardiologist recommended a complete correction immediately because she could die at any time in response to fear, stress or anxiety. The family tried finding a hospital that was able to perform the surgery but it was too complicated because this type of surgery is not commonly performed in Siberia.



When the Kemerovo doctors knew that ICHF was coming they called to invite Marina and her mom to be at the center so that when ICHF arrived they could examine her and make a decision regarding surgery. Lena said that she knew that her daughter would get the surgery and that she was "sure everything would be ok."

Because of the generosity of our sponsors and team members, Marina was able to receive a very successful operation and recovered quickly. Marina and her mother were really excited to go home and take a bubble bath.



Julia Gukova

Age: 10 years

Diagnosis: Ventricular Septal Defect



Julia, pictured here with her mom, Lena, lives in Prokopyevsk, a small city about 3 hours outside of Kemerovo. In her spare time she enjoys folk dancing and roller-skating.

Julia has been waiting for her operation since she was four years old because her parents were unable to afford it. Lena heard that the ICHF team would be coming there and was overwhelmed with joy to learn that Julia would be able to receive the necessary surgery.

On Tuesday, August, 11, she received a complete repair of her VSD. Julia was so excited and asked if the ICHF team could come to Kemerovo every year and operate on every child with a heart defect so that they could all run fast.



Timur Sobirov

Timur is a 14 year old boy from Uzbekistan. He lives with his mother and father. He also has two sisters. Last year Timur had a brain contusion that required surgery. Upon preparation for brain surgery, it was discovered that Timur also had a heart defect. He was diagnosed as having total anomalous pulmonary venous return (TAPVR) to the superior vena cava with an atrial septal defect (ASD). He was told surgery would be necessary but unfortunately it would be too complicated for the doctors in Uzbekistan to perform. Timur and his father, pictured with him below, traveled to Novosibirsk, the main pediatric cardiac hospital in Siberia. Once again they were disappointed to hear the surgery was too complicated and couldn't be performed. It was suggested that they travel to Kemerovo in anticipation of the ICHF team's arrival. Upon arrival to the hospital in Kemerovo, the surgeon informed them that without the necessary heart surgery, Timur could possibly die within 5 years.



Timur's defect is a very serious one. The pulmonary veins from the lungs do not return as they should to the left atrium, instead to the superior vena cava and retrain into the right atrium. The only way that the oxygenated blood reaches the body is through the hole between the right and left atrium causing blood to travel to the left side of the heart and pumped to the body. This system is both inefficient and detrimental due to the fact that the blood going to his body is not fully oxygenated which can result in cyanosis (bluish tint to lips and nails) and shortness of breath.

Timur's father was formerly in the Afghanistan war fighting on the Russian side. He received a brain injury so serious that a coffin was sent to collect his body. Fortunately, he was not only able to survive but he fully recovered and was able to return home to his family.



Timur, pictured here with Anna Ohlrich, student and ICHF intern, had a very successful operation. Timur enjoyed playing with the toys brought by the ICHF team members. He is learning English in school and particularly enjoyed practicing his English with the team members.

Timur and Robin Pharney, PICU nurse and ICHF team member, after his operation.



After having two surgeries in one year, being away from home, his family and missing school Timur says that he is just excited that he now has the opportunity to go home and live like a normal kid. He is most excited about seeing his mother and two sisters, as well as eating his favorite food – sausage. His dad said the first thing Timur requested after returning from the ICU was to go out and buy him some sausage. After his experiences in the hospital, his father was hoping that Timur would want to become a doctor. However, Timur's response was that is seemed like a lot of work and it would be better if he just married a doctor.



Timur enjoys practicing martial arts and is eagerly anticipating going home and resuming this activity.

Timur was a hit with the team members and staff at the hospital. After leaving ICU, he spent his time walking around the hospital practicing his English with a huge smile on his face.

Kamalov Izatillo

Age: 2 years

Diagnosis: VSD and Pulmonary Stenosis

Procedure: VSD Closure and Pulmonary Valvotomy



Nikita Kiselev

Nikita, pictured below with his mother Katiya, is 4 months old and lives in Kemerovo. He was diagnosed at birth as having tricuspid atresia. His heart has four chambers but only three valves. This defect causes blue coloring of the skin, lips and nail beds, as well as, rapid heart rate, rapid breathing and clammy skin.



Nikita received a bidirectional Glenn shunt. This operation is basically re-routing blood so that enough oxygen is added to his bloodstream to meet his needs. With this type of congenital heart defect, another surgery may be necessary; however, for the time being, Nikita is recovering well and his mother is very thankful for his second chance.

Patient List

Patient Name	Age	Procedure
Nickolai Pimenov	11 years	ASD Closure, Cleft MV Repair
Krill Kirienko	1 year	ASD Closure, MV Repair
Anna Lyamzina	2 years	VSD Closure, Resection of Subaortic Membrane
Timur Sobirov	14 years	TAPVR Repair
Diana Skryanbina	10 months	PA Valvotomy, VSD Closure, RVOT Resection
Egor Ginedash	8 days	RVOT Transannular Patch, Pulmonary Valvotomy
Nikita Kiselev	4 months	Atrial Septectomy, Bidirectional Glenn Shunt, PA Transection
Danilla Nekrasov	10 months	VSD Closure
Ekaterina Maximenko	9 months	VSD Closure, RV-PA Conduit
Julia Gukova	10 years	VSD Closure
Izatillo Kamalov	2 years	VSD Closure, Pulmonary Valvotomy
Marina Michalets	1 year	TOF Repair
Ivan Prokopenko	3 months	AVSD Repair

Medical Team

Name	Position	Origin
Ali Dodge Khatami	Surgeon	Germany
Yakov Elgudin	Surgeon	United States
Gerhard Karl Stockinger	Perfusionist	Germany
Annette Davis	Anesthesiologist	United Kingdom
Doreen Segebrecht	OR Nurse	Germany
Tessie Lynn Hunt	Respiratory Therapist	United States
Alia Marie Dennis	Intensivist	United States
Pavel Shauchenka	Intensivist	Belarus
Chantal Denise Costan	PICU Nurse	Switzerland
Robin Lynn Pharney	PICU Nurse	United States
Nina Hertsouskaya	PICU Nurse	Belarus
Verena Rathke	PICU Nurse	Switzerland
Frank John Molloy	PICU Nurse	United States
Thomas Siamak Mir	Cardiologist	Germany
Anna Price Ohlrich	Student/ICHF Intern	United States





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