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INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION



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

Kemerovo, Russia

April 2011

Medical Mission Trip April 16 – 30, 2011

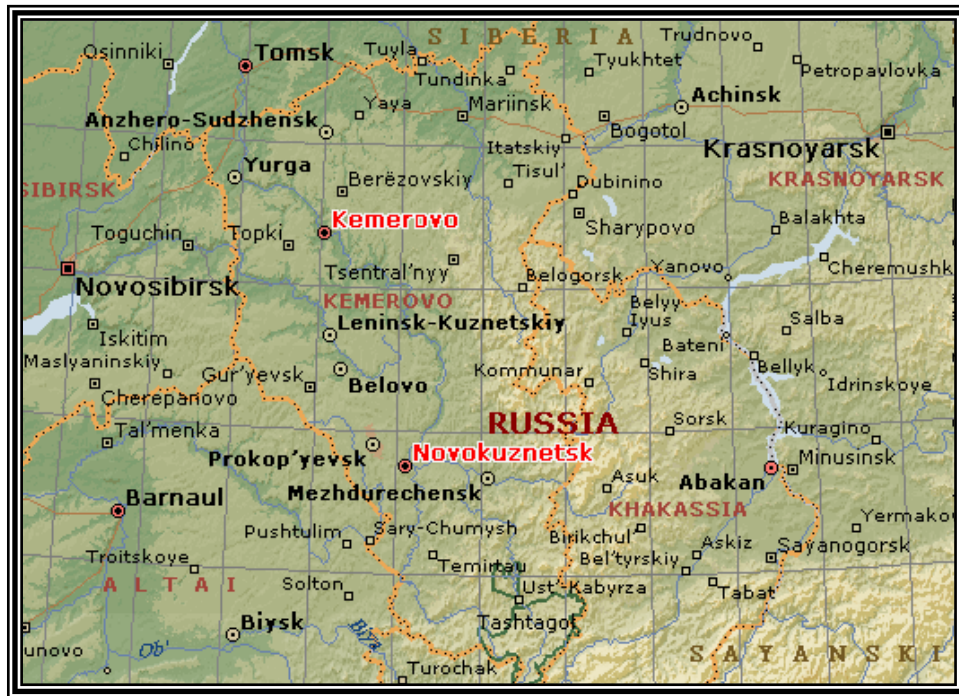
The International Children's Heart Foundation made its sixth medical mission trip to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology on April 16 – 30. The team, led by Cardiovascular Surgeon Dr. Konstantin Drozdovski, consisted of one perfusionist, one intensivist, one cardiologist, one respiratory therapist, and two PICU nurses. The team came from three different countries, all joining together for one cause -- to save the lives of children with congenital heart defects.



During our team's visit to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology, 12 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.

The International Children's Heart Foundation extends its sincere thanks to Russian Gift of Life, USA for helping make this trip possible and for providing hope to 12 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.

There are 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 and none with complex disease. 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.

Victoria Sherdina

Victoria is a 5 month old who was born with several heart defects. She was diagnosed with transposition of the great arteries (TGA), patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), ventricular septal defect (VSD) and patent foramen ovale (PFO).

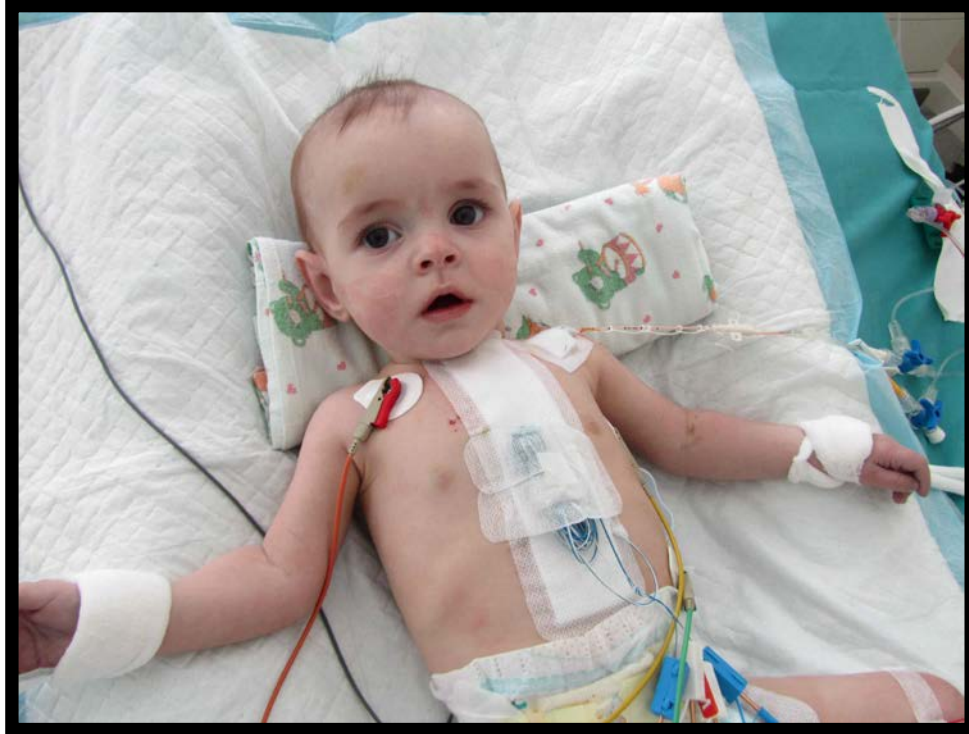


TGA is a congenital heart defect that occurs when the large vessels that take blood away from the heart to the lungs, or to the body are improperly connected. The aorta is connected to the right ventricle, and the pulmonary artery is connected to the left ventricle, the exact opposite of a normal heart's anatomy.

PFO is a defect in the septum (wall) between the upper (atrial) chambers of the heart. Specifically, the defect is an incomplete closure of the atrial septum that results in the creation of a flap or valve-like opening in the septal wall.

On April 26 Victoria received her much needed surgery and a full recovery is expected!

Milana Karkavina



Malina is a 6 month old with pulmonary stenosis (PA), PDA, double outlet right ventricle (DORV) and pulmonary stenosis (PS). In DORV, the aorta rises from the right ventricle (the chamber that pumps blood to the lungs), instead of the left ventricle (the normal pumping chamber to the body). PS occurs when abnormalities of the pulmonary valve lead to narrowing (stenosis) and obstruction of blood flow between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery.

The combination of these heart defects were causing little Malina to experience severe fatigue, cyanosis (bluish tint to skin and nails), failure to gain weight and difficulty breathing.

On April 22, her operation was performed and she is doing very well! Because of the generosity and kindness of our sponsors and team members, she now has a second chance to live a normal life!

Alexandra Aslamova

Nine month old Alexandra was born with atrial septal defect (ASD), ventricular septal defect (VSD), patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) and pulmonary hypertension (PH). Her heart defects were discovered due to the many symptoms she was experiencing; such as: rapid heart rate, difficulty feeding, cyanosis and breathlessness.

On April 21, Alexandra received her operation and is expected to fully recover!



Nikita Grebnev



One year old Nikita was diagnosed with VSD and DORV. VSD is one of the most common forms of congenital heart disease. It basically describes one or more holes in the wall that separates the left and right ventricles of the heart. VSD causes shortness of breath, fast breathing, paleness, failure to gain weight, rapid heart rate, sweating while feeding & frequent respiratory infections.

Thanks to our sponsors and volunteer team members, Nikita received VSD Closure and DORV repair on April 28 and is doing great!

Anton Bezruchko



Anton is an 11 month old who was born with TGA, VSD and PDA.

In PDA, abnormal blood flow occurs between two of the major arteries connected to the heart. The blood vessel that connects these two arteries is called the ductus arteriosus.

This vessel usually closes within a few days after birth. When the vessel remains open, or patent, it can cause oxygen rich blood to mix with oxygen poor blood putting a strain on the heart and increase the blood flow to the lungs.

Anton received his surgery on April 20 and is expected to fully recover!

Dmitry Zomerfeld

Five month old Dmitry was diagnosed at birth with tetralogy of Fallot (TOF).

Because of our sponsors and team Members, he was able to receive his surgery on April 19. Dmitry will now be able to live a normal life!



Igor Mironchikov



Igor is a 9 month old who was diagnosed with tetralogy of fallot (TOF). When he was born he would tire easily and was very cyanotic. Cyanosis occurs because the oxygen level in the blood is below normal.

TOF is a complex condition consisting of four heart defects:

- ❖ A large ventricular septal defect (VSD)
- ❖ Pulmonary stenosis
- ❖ Right ventricular hypertrophy
- ❖ An overriding aorta

Together, these four defects make it difficult for enough blood to reach the lungs to receive oxygen, and oxygen poor blood flows out to the body.

He received complete repair of his TOF on April 28 and a full recovery is expected

Patient List

Name	Age	Procedure
Ivan Ardyshev	6 months	Tricuspid Valve Replacement
Alexandra Aslamova	9 months	VSD Closure & PDA Ligation
Anton Bezruchko	11 months	Atrioseptectomy
Nikita Grebnev	1 year	DORV Repair, VSD Closure & Transannular Patch
Milana Karkavina	6 months	Blalock-Taussig Shunt
Igor Kim	2 years	Aortic Patch Repair & Right Pulmonary Artery Repair
Victoria Medvedera	4 months	Blalock-Taussig Shunt
Igor Mironchikov	9 months	Complete Repair of TOF & Pacemaker Implantation
Victoria Novozhilova	11 months	Complete Repair of TOF & Right Pulmonary Artery Repair
Victoria Sherdina	5 months	Rastelli Procedure
Egor Tradeznikov	5 months	DORV Repair & Pulmonary Artery Banding Removal
Dmity Zomerfeld	5 months	Blalock-Taussig Shunt



Medical Team

Name	Position	Origin
Konstantin Drozdovski	Surgeon	Belarus
Michael Youngblood	Perfusionist	United States
Pavel Shauchenka	Intensivist	Belarus
Alena Karalkova	Cardiologist	Belarus
Janine Evans	PICU nurse	Australia
Kristen Dill	PICU nurse	United States
Diane Gelpi	Respiratory Therapist	United States



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