

INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SAMARA PEDIATRIC SURGICAL MISSION IV SEPTEMBER 2006



PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Andrei B.
Age	2 years 4 months
DOB	June 7, 2004
Birth weight	7 lbs (3.2 kg)
Current weight	35 lbs 11 oz (16.2 kg)
Home	Selo Borskoe
Mother	Olga, 32 years old
Father	Zhenya
Diagnosis	Complex aortic coarctation; right aortic arch with transverse arch hypoplasia
Open-heart surgery	October 3, 2006
Discharged	October 18, 2006

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

The parents have been married for 13 years and have a 12-year-old daughter, Anastasia. Olga is a pharmacist, and Zhenya is an electrician. They were happy living in Kazakhstan, but in December 2005 the family moved to Samara Oblast because they could get no help for Andrei in Kazakhstan. So, with some regret they left, to join Zhenya's brother, who had told them about the Samara Regional Cardiac Care Center.

Now, the family is living in Selo Borskoe, (a 2-day train ride from the Samara Regional Cardiac Care Center) in a 5-room house they share with Zhenya's mother. Olga misses her own family, who remained in Kazakhstan.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

Andrei, like Olga's first child, was delivered by caesarean section. His heart defect was diagnosed at birth, but the implications of the defect were unclear to Andrei's parents. Because of his large skin discolorations, they took Andrei to Moscow when he was 4 months old. He was diagnosed with a VSD in Moscow. They recommended that Andrei have surgery within his first year of life. Unfortunately, at the time, pediatric open-heart surgery was not available in the country of Kazakhstan.

They brought Andrei to the Samara Regional Cardiac Care Center in June 2006. Although Andrei had an echocardiogram and a diagnostic catheterization, the Samaran cardiologists did not uncover the full extent of the stenosis related to his heart defect. Working together, the Heart to Heart medical volunteers and the Samaran physicians learned that his defects were far more complex, including significant stenosis, narrowing in the arch and in many collaterals.

Andrei's development has been normal. He began to speak around his first birthday, and now tells fabulous stories. All the personnel on the floor are impressed with his colorful speech. Olga says that when people first see Andrei, they are taken aback by the red spots on his face, but when he begins to speak, their discomfort quickly passes.

Olga says that Andrei's defect has changed their lives entirely; it has taught them about what is important in life. Nothing, she says, is more important than the life of one's child.

Based on an interview conducted in Russian by Heart to Heart volunteer Rose Glickman, PhD in Samara.