

INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SITE: ROSTOV-ON-DON
DISTRICT: SOUTHERN
COLLABORATION LAUNCHED: 2009

SEPT 29-OCT 16, 2010
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL
MISSION 2



PATIENT PROFILE

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| Child | Dima V. |
| Age | 5 years old |
| DOB | May 22, 2005 |
| Weight | At birth: 7 lbs 12 oz Current: 42 lbs |
| Home | Tselinskiy Region Rostov Oblast 80 mi from Rostov-on-Don |
| Parents | Natalia, 30; Alexei, 29 |
| Diagnosis | Supravalvar aortic stenosis, William's Syndrome S/p Balloon valvuloplasty of pulmonary valve (2010, Rostov-on-Don) |
| Open heart surgery | Repair of supravalvar stenosis, aortic valvuloplasty October 12, 2010 |
| Discharged from PCICU | October 13, 2010 |

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Dima's family lives in a village in the Tselinsky Region. Alexei, Dima's father, works at a horse stable; Natalia, his mother, is a baker. Natalia is currently on maternity leave, to care for Dima's six-month-old baby sister. Thankfully, Dima's grandmother lives near the family, and helps out with the children.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

When Dima was nine months old, cardiologists at the Rostov-on-Don Cardiac Center performed a balloon dilation by catheterization – a minimally invasive procedure to counteract the narrowing of his blood vessels. Four months later, he underwent a second interventional catheterization. These procedures created pathways to improve blood circulation until a complete repair, through open heart surgery, could be performed.

According to Natalia, Dima has the stamina to spend hours playing outside. She remarks that other parents are always surprised to hear that he was born with a congenital heart defect. Sadly, many children like Dima go undiagnosed, and precisely because of this, they are at risk for sudden death syndrome due to cardiac arrest.

Although Dima sometimes needs to sit down and rest, in general he shows no outward signs of health problems. However, because of his heart condition, the Russian educational system considers him disabled and does not allow him to attend preschool. Natalia is confident that Dima will start elementary school on time, with other children his age.

CURRENT CONDITION

Dima seems like an energetic, happy five-year-old. Natalia brings him to and from the hospital by bus, a three-hour trip.

The joint team diagnosed Dima with supravalvar aortic stenosis and William's Syndrome, and recommended open heart surgery to widen his aorta. The surgery, performed by the joint team, went well. After only two days in the PCICU, Dima was able to join his mother for lunch in the pediatric unit's small cafeteria.

Since Dima had no significant visible symptoms of his heart defect before the surgery, improvements in his condition are not necessarily apparent. But in a country where open heart surgery is still very difficult to access, Dima is quite lucky – through surgery, he has likely avoided sudden death in adolescence or early adulthood.

Based on an interview conducted in Rostov-on-Don, in Russian, by Albina Popov, Heart to Heart staff.