

**GENERAL DIRECTION OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**

**Mexico City, January 14th, 2015**

## **Save newborn baby with osseous skull problem**

- ***The child was surgically intervened when she was just five days old in Chiapas, at south of Mexico.***
- ***For her optimal evolution, the kid was released within a week later.***

An interdisciplinary team of surgeons from Mexico's Ministry of Health, saved the life of a newborn thanks to a successful surgical intervention, in which the doctors could correct a genetic defect in her skull.

This medical proceeding was led by the surgeons Omar Adrian Garcia Gonzalez and Froilan Paniagua Morgan, from the hospitals Maternal and Child Hospital and General Hospital "Maria Ignacia Gandulfo", both located at Comitan county in the State of Chiapas, south Mexico, and due to the satisfactory development of the child, was released from the hospital seven days later after the surgery.

The neurosurgeon Omar Adrian Garcia Gonzalez, informed that the medical team practiced some clinical studies at the fifth day the kid had been born, and those studies gave as diagnosis of an encephalocele disease, that requires a surgery to save the little girl's life.

He said that during the surgery they performed the closing of the child's front-ethmoid, who began to satisfactorily respond breathing by herself with excellent senses reflexes, and thanks to that optimal development, she left the hospital.

Garcia Gonzalez explained that the neural tube is a narrow channel that normally folds and close during the third or fourth week of pregnancy to form the skull and the spinal column. However, the encephalocele happens

when the neural tube can't be completely closed, and remains an opening in the mid-line of the upper skull, between the front head and the nose, or in the back of the skull.

Meanwhile, the pediatric surgeon Froilan Paniagua Morgan said that this genetic defect happens most of the times when the mother do not take folic acid during the pregnancy, although as well exists some other reasons that trigger this issue, as alcoholism, smoking, use of drugs, or genetics.

The Director of the Maternal and Child Hospital in the county of Comitán, Jose Antonio Yañez Fuentes, said that in the hospital are around of 700 newborns in a month; in 2013 were recorded 3,893 births and 3,721 cesarean births, getting a total number of 7,614 births that year.

The 30 year old mother of the newborn, Magdalena Tomas Juan, originally from the Paraiso San Francisco II community in Maravilla Tenejapa county, thanked to the Mexico's Ministry of Health doctors for saving her daughter, because thanks to that successful surgery, now she can hold her and take her home.

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