

# TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN

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*Madison Manners gets rare surgery at Townsville University Hospital.* At just three days old, tiny Madison Manners went into surgery to correct a rare condition that affects one in 30,000 births in North Queensland.



AT just three days old, tiny Madison Manners went into surgery to correct a rare condition that affects one in 30,000 births in North Queensland. Less than two weeks ago, paediatric surgeon Dr Bhanu Rathnamma undertook the delicate task of repairing Madison's malfunctioning diaphragm, the muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen, in a surgery that is rarely performed outside Brisbane.

Dr Rathnamma performed the repair using keyhole technique known as thoracoscopic surgery, sparing Madison from having her chest cavity opened and a longer, more painful recovery. Now two weeks old, Madison is home in Bowen with her parents Jane Blackbourn and Laurence Manners.

Ms Blackbourn said the first sign anything was wrong was picked up at a 20-week pregnancy scan.

"At the scan, the ultrasound picked up some abnormalities in Madison's right diaphragm and our obstetrician then referred us to foetal maternal medicine specialist Dr David Watson and the maternal foetal medicine service," Ms Blackbourn said.

"Madison is our first child, and it was very stressful and scary to find out about her condition, especially because it wasn't something we had heard of and we didn't know what treatment options were available in Townsville."

Dr Rathnamma said a chest x-ray and ultrasound after Madison's birth confirmed the eventration.

"This is an uncommon condition which looks similar to a diaphragmatic hernia in the initial scans," he said. "For this reason, we had to wait for the

X-rays and ultrasounds after Madison was born to confirm the diagnosis which led to the decision to perform the keyhole surgery.

"I've performed this keyhole procedure on older children before, but never on a three-day-old baby, and I am so proud of the outcomes we've been able to achieve for Madison and her family."

Maternal foetal medicine specialist Dr David Watson said diaphragmatic eventrations only presented every few years.

"A diaphragmatic eventration is very rare condition, affecting only one in 30,000 births in North Queensland," Dr Watson said.

"Congenital diaphragmatic hernias are still rare but more common than the eventration and to diagnose the condition we usually notice the displacement of the liver or the stomach up into the chest cavity and the heart is sometimes displaced.

"This is a major abnormality that can be life-threatening for the baby once they are born, but the paediatric surgical management is lifesaving."

After the surgery, Madison spent two days in neonatal intensive care, before being taken to special care, and then discharged on Sunday.

"This was incredible considering she had the surgery on the Wednesday," Ms Blackbourn said.