MEXICAN INSTITUTE SOLVES PERINATAL PROBLEMS SUCCESSFULLY

- The National Institute of Perinatology of Mexico made public its successful stories.
- The Institute assists 5,000 high-risk pregnancies every year.

In Mexico, the National Institute of Perinatology named “Isidro Espinosa de los Reyes” is the leader in high complexity perinatal problem-solving. “It counts with a medical team of excellence and cutting-edge technology”, says Javier Mancilla Ramírez, Director General of the Institute.

In a press conference, Doctor Mancilla highlighted that the Institute “Isidro Espinosa de los Reyes” holds a dictum of Accreditation in Capacity, Quality and Security for the Medical Attention of Highly Specialized Services, for the attention of several alterations that fetuses and neonates might present.

He informed that the Institute assists 5,000 high-risk pregnancies every year, which means that a similar number of babies will need special medical care. Most of the treatments of this kind are only provided at the Institute “Isidro Espinosa de los Reyes”.

Two successful stories are an example of the latter: one of gastroschisis and one of transfusion from fetus to fetus. Both are complex pathologies that are a cause of death if they are not treated adequately, said Doctor Mancilla.

Oscar Guido Ramírez, Head of Neonatal Surgery Service of the Institute, led the team of specialized doctors that treated a girl, Agnes Vázquez Garza, who was diagnosed with gastroschisis. The girl Agnes was operated two days after her birth and the surgery turned out to be a success.

Agnes was operated on March 11, 2008 and since that day she receives comprehensive treatment. Today she is 5 years old and her psychomotor development is satisfactory.

The specialized doctor explained that gastroschisis is a defect of the abdominal wall that causes the intestines and other organs to develop outside the abdomen of the fetus. This condition can be diagnosed with an ultrasound scan as from the 13th week of gestation.
He pointed out that this kind of alteration is not very frequent since there are 1.2 cases registered per 1,000 newborns. Nevertheless, if the condition is not treated early enough, it can be a cause of death.

During the past 5 years, the Institute has performed 230 surgeries of this kind with a survival rate of 94% of the cases.

Mario Guzmán Huerta, Head of the Department of Fetal and Maternal Medicine of the Institute, said that this is the only public institution that offers a comprehensive program of surgery and treatment in the country.

Juan Carlos Bello Muñoz, specialized doctor in fetal surgery of the Department of Fetal and Maternal Medicine of the Institute, gave details about the medical procedure that was practiced in a patient that was pregnant with twins. This patient had entered the hospital with a diagnosis of transfusion from fetus to fetus.

He said that this alteration is presented since the conception of the products, who do not share the placenta equitably. This causes one product to develop normally while the other has complications related to weight and size, among other.

This condition can be corrected through a procedure named “photocoagulation”. In this case, the procedure was performed in the 26th week of gestation.

The babies were born on November 14 in stable conditions. They are currently hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit, since they were born in the 32nd week of gestation. As soon as they gain a little bit of weight and size, they will be allowed to go home.

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