



Patrick E. Brookhouser, M.D.
DIRECTOR

Contact: Brooke Wittrock
Manager, Marketing Communications
(402) 498-6640
Brooke.Wittrock@boystown.org

August 25, 2010

Dr. Rodney Lusk Assists in Complex, Lifesaving Operation

At a 22 week prenatal ultrasound, Dan and Megan Hanson were told that their baby girl had a mass in her mouth that was blocking her airway. During pregnancy, the umbilical cord provides oxygen to the baby, but once the cord is cut, the baby would not be able to breathe on her own.

On July 29, 2010, Dr. Rodney Lusk, Director of the Boys Town Ear, Nose and Throat Institute, was one of 34 medical surgeons, physicians and staff anxiously awaiting the arrival of baby Haylee Hanson at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Haylee was delivered by a team of physicians performing the very first ex utero intrapartum treatment or "EXIT" procedure. Similar to a cesarean, the mother's abdomen and uterus are cut, but the baby is only partially delivered so the placenta could remain attached and the umbilical cord could continue to supply oxygen to the baby.

Once the baby's head and shoulders were delivered, Dr. Lusk had to act fast as the baby's only chance for survival rested in his hands and his success of securing an airway.

"We were very fortunate to be able to establish an airway so quickly," said Dr. Lusk. "We had several backup techniques with rigid and flexible scopes available if the initial intubation was not successful."

Once Haylee's breathing tube was secure and she was medically stable, she was delivered and transferred to the newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). On August 5, the benign tumor was completely removed by Dr. Lusk and Jason Miller, M.D., plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Boys Town Craniofacial Clinic and The Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Miller also operates on children with cleft palates and cleft lips at Boys Town National Research Hospital.

"The mass came out very cleanly," said Dr. Lusk. "However, because of the positioning of the mass, Haylee is left with a large cleft palate."

The Cleft Palate Clinic at Boys Town National Research Hospital offers a multidisciplinary approach that provides comprehensive and long term treatment to children and their families with cleft lip and/or palate and other craniofacial anomalies. Haylee will be able to have corrective surgery between nine and 12 months of age.

Congratulations to the Hanson family on their newest addition and congratulations to the multidisciplinary team of physicians, surgeons and staff from The University of Nebraska Medical Center, Children's Hospital and Boys Town National Research Hospital who collaborated on this lifesaving mission.

-30-

555 North 30th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 498-6511

14000 Boys Town Hospital Road
Boys Town, Nebraska 68010
(402) 778-6000

boystownhospital.org

Saving Children, Healing Families