



THERAPIES USED IN PREEMIES MAY SURPRISE YOU

From a jolt of caffeine to a dose of Viagra,® doctors adapt adult drugs for tiny babies

Nationwide Children's Hospital

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SUGGESTED TEASE	<p>YOU MIGHT THINK CAFFEINE IS THE LAST THING LITTLE BABIES LIKE THIS WOULD NEED, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY HELPING TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.</p> <p>WE'LL SHOW YOU SOME DIFFERENT APPROACHES DOCTORS ARE TAKING TO HELP PREEMIES, NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.</p>
ANCHOR LEAD	<p>IT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT EACH YEAR MORE THAN 450-THOUSAND BABIES ARE BORN TOO SOON.</p> <p>EVEN MORE SURPRISING ARE SOME OF THE ADULT THERAPIES DOCTORS USE TO TREAT THEM. CLARK POWELL HAS MORE.</p>
	(Nats - Parents with premature baby in hospital) :02
<p>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</p> <p>Shots of parents by Autymn's bed</p>	<p>THE DAY SHE WAS BORN, AUTYMN TACKETT WEIGHED LESS THAN A POUND AND A HALF. BORN AT JUST 26 WEEKS, SHE WAS FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE. :07</p>
<p>CG: Erick Tackett Father of a premature baby :07 - :13</p>	<p>"When we first came here, Autymn was really struggling to breath, she was really struggling to keep the fluid off of her lungs." :06</p>
<p>Close up shots of Autymn</p> <p>Shot of doctor walking into NICU</p> <p>Shots of nurse working with baby</p> <p>Shots of woman drinking coffee</p>	<p>TODAY, AUTYMN IS GETTING STRONGER, AND THE MEDICATIONS THAT HELPED HER MAY BE SURPRISING.</p> <p>DOCTOR EDWARD SHEPHERD IS CHIEF OF NEONATOLOGY AT NATIONWIDE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL. HE SAYS ONE OF THE MORE COMMON THERAPIES USED IN PREEMIES IS CAFFEINE.</p> <p>ESSENTIALLY, GIVING THESE BABIES THE EQUIVALENT OF A CUP OF COFFEE CAN HAVE REMARKABLE RESULTS. :19</p>
<p>CG: Edward Shepherd, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital :32 - :41</p>	<p>"We think it stimulates the diaphragm, we think it helps to stimulate the lungs, but most importantly it stimulates the brain to remind the body to breathe." :09</p>
<p>CG: Jennifer Tackett Mother of a premature baby :41 - :48</p>	<p>"My first reaction was, I'm not allowed to drink it while I'm pregnant with her, but you're all going to give it her her. Very surprised." :07</p>
<p>Shots of Tacketts with Autymn</p> <p>Close up of Autymn</p>	<p>EVEN MORE SURPRISING MAY BE GIVING BABIES THE DRUG VIAGRA.</p> <p>HELP A LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION KNOWN AS PULMONARY HYPERTENSION. :09</p>

Dr. Shepherd (CG'd earlier)	"That's where it's too hard for the heart to pump blood through their lungs, and this medication actually works to relax the lungs so that the heart doesn't have to work so hard." :09
Jennifer Tackett (CG'd earlier)	"It's something that you wouldn't imagine being used for a baby, but it's truly helped her out tremendously." :06
Close up of Autymn	AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :03
ANCHOR TAG	DOCTORS HAVE ALSO TAKEN ADULT MEDICINES USED TO CONTROL BLOOD PRESSURE AND EVEN HEART FAILURE AND MODIFIED THEM FOR USE IN PREEMIES. ONE IN NINE BABIES IN THE U-S IS BORN PREMATURELY, WHICH IS BEFORE THE 37th WEEK OF PREGNANCY.
 Share it! Suggested tweet:	See how doctors @nationwidekids are adapting adult drugs like caffeine and Viagra to help save preemies: bit.ly/1qEkPvS
 Suggested post:	You may think a jolt of caffeine or a dose of Viagra adult matters, but they can actually play a critical role in the treatment of premature babies. Doctors at Nationwide Children's Hospital talk about some of the more out-of-the-ordinary approaches they're taking to help care for the tiniest of babies. Check it out: bit.ly/1qEkPvS
References -	¹ <i>Prematurity Campaign, March of Dimes / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> , November 2014. Online: http://www.marchofdimes.org/mission/prematurity-campaign.aspx http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/PretermBirth.htm
	Extra Bites
CG: Edward Shepherd, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital	<i>Dr. Shepherd talks about efforts to adapt drugs for use in preemies -</i> "They're not small adults, they're not small children, they're very different. They handle medications very differently. And so we do a lot of adaptation of our medications from the pediatric and the adult world to ours." :11 <i>Dr. Shepherd talks about the use of caffeine in preemies -</i> "That was a surprise to me when I got into neonatology, to learn that caffeine was commonly used in these tiny babies. It turns out that it's a medication that helps them to remember to breathe." :11
CG: Edward Shepherd, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital	<i>Dr. Shepherd talks about the use of Viagra</i> "What we've done using Viagra patients is we've essentially eliminated death from pulmonary hypertension in our older kids." :11
CG: Jennifer Tackett Mother of a premature baby	<i>Jennifer talks about the improvements in her daughter's breathing -</i> 1.14.48 "I'd even asked 'Is she breathing?' Because we're so used to seeing her work to breathe and she was just laying there so peaceful and breathing so easy, it shocked me." :08 <i>Jennifer talks about the idea of adapting therapies for her daughter -</i> 1.15.37 "Naturally, you know, it's worrisome at first, but after they described how they worked, we had no choice, we had to do it." :06

<p>CG: Erick Tackett Father of a premature baby</p>	<p><i>Erick talks about Autymn's progress -</i> "We actually didn't know what was going to happen, you know, we was really worried. And, you know, day by day she's got better, and now we're talking about going home." :09</p> <p><i>Erick talks about the use of Viagra to help his daughter -</i> "It was kind of shocking at first, you know, whenever they first tell you. But whenever they explain to you how it works and everything, you know, it really makes sense." :09</p>
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