

# CONJOINED TWINS UNDERGO SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION

*Nationwide Children's Hospital surgeons separate 11-month old girls conjoined at hip and spine*

**NOTE: EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 @ 12:01 AM (ET)**

*Nationwide Children's Hospital*

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<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	SISTERS BORN AS ONE ARE SPENDING THEIR FIRST FEW DAYS APART. WE'LL TAKE YOU INSIDE THE OPERATING ROOM FOR A RARE LOOK AT WHAT IT TAKES TO SEPARATE CONJOINED TWINS.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY FOR A MOTHER FROM UGANDA AND HER CONJOINED TWIN GIRLS WHO TRAVELED TO OHIO FOR A SEPARATION SURGERY THAT WILL CHANGE THEIR LIVES. PENNY MOORE TAKES YOU INSIDE THE O-R FOR THAT UNBELIEVABLE MOMENT AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.
	(Nats - inside nursery) :01
<b>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>  Shots of girls in their room	ACEN AND APIO AKELLO (uh-CHIN and uh-PEE-oh uh-KELL-oh) AREN'T AS CLOSE AS THEY USED TO BE.
<b>CG: Esther Akello Mother</b>  Cover with shots of Esther with the girls	"I'll be very happy to finally hold my babies in my arms and to be able to feed them separately. It will be very exciting for me."
Shots from the day-of surgery and multiple surgeons	A TEAM OF SURGEONS AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED THE ELEVEN-MONTH OLD CONJOINED TWINS FOLLOWING A 16 HOUR SURGERY ON SEPTEMBER THIRD. THE BABIES ARE CURRENTLY RECOVERING.
<b>CG: Dr. Gail Besner, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>	"It took approximately 30 people in order to be able to successfully separate these twins."

<p>Animation of where they are conjoined.</p> <p>Shots from the day-of surgery featuring the multiple surgeons involved.</p>	<p>THE TWINS WERE JOINED AT THE SPINE AND PELVIC REGION. SPECIALISTS CAREFULLY UNTWINED THEIR SPINAL CORDS AS TECHNICIANS MONITORED NERVE FUNCTION</p>
<p>Shots of surgery</p>	<p>(Nats - "Ok now they are just Apio's, same distribution")</p>
<p>Shots from the day-of surgery featuring the multiple surgeons involved.</p>	<p>TO IDENTIFY WHICH NERVES BELONGED TO ACEN, AND WHICH BELONGED TO APIO. THEN, THEIR SOFT TISSUE WAS DIVIDED AND, AFTER A LONG RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS, ONE BECAME TWO.</p>
<p>Shot of Dr. Besner in Surgery</p>	<p>(Nats - "Acen and Apio are now separate individuals.")</p>
<p><b>Dr. Gail Besner, MD (CG'ed earlier)</b> (Cover with shots of Besner and surgeons separating the girls in the OR.)</p>	<p>"We have the potential here at Nationwide Children's Hospital, given the depth and the breadth of expertise of all of our specialists, to take two patients who will never be able to have a normal life as they are now and make them into two separate individuals who I expect will have a fully normal life."</p>
<p><b>Esther Akello (CG'ed earlier)</b> (cover with shots of mom with the girls.)</p>	<p>"The surgery is going to be very helpful to the children because then they'll be able to feed on their own, they'll be able to grow up like normal children."</p>
<p>Shots of the girls together.</p>	<p>BUT THEY'LL ALWAYS SHARE A SPECIAL BOND.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Gail Besner, MD (CG'ed earlier)</b> (cover with shots of Besner holding the twins. Shots of mom.)</p>	<p>"Their hands are close to each other because of the way they're conjoined and sometimes they hold hands and it's just the cutest little thing."</p>
<p>Shots of the girls being separated.</p> <p>Shots of mom at the bedside while the girls are recovering.</p>	<p>SOMETHING THEIR DOCTORS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM DO, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE A PART.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Gail Besner, MD (CG'ed earlier)</b> (cover with shots of Besner briefing mom after surgery from a distance)</p>	<p>"The look on the parents' faces when you tell them the babies are separated is something that you'll never get out of your mind // you'll remember it for the rest of your life."</p>
	<p><b>Extra Bites</b></p>
<p><b>CG: Esther Akello</b> <b>Mother</b></p>	<p>"Apio is a very playful girl, she laughs a lot and is always jolly. Whereas Melissa Faith is kind of always to herself and she cries when she sees an unfamiliar face."</p>

	<p>“The surgery is going to be very helpful to the children because then they’ll be able to feed on their own... they’ll be able to grow up like normal children and crawl... now they can’t crawl ... and probably be able to walk... hopefully on their own and grow up to be like any normal girls.”</p> <p>“Nationwide Children’s Hospital has been very good for both the babies and me. First and foremost the babies are able to get unlimited care.”</p> <p>“The nurses have been really nice to me. Much as we have the language barrier they still come into the room and they try to joke around with me and try to make me laugh... even if we don’t understand each other. Somehow it really keeps my spirit high.”</p>
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