

H04 Cojoined Twins Update

January 2007

Intro: In the spring of 2006 the world watched as doctors at Mayo Clinic gave separate lives to a pair of conjoined twins. It was a complicated surgery and an amazing example of faith, love and teamwork. Let's check in with the Carlsen family to see how Abby and Belle are doing now, months after the operation.

Video

Total running time 1:29

Audio

TWO BABY GIRLS BORN FACE TO FACE. CONNECTED BELLY TO BELLY. SURGICAL SEPARATION WAS ABBY AND BELLE CARLSEN'S ONLY CHANCE AT NORMAL LIVES. BUT THE OPERATION WAS NOT EASY FOR THEIR PARENTS, AMY AND JESSE.

Jesse Carlsen

"HANDING THEM OFF AND NOT BEING WITH THEM FOR A FULL DAY."

To animation

THE OPERATION WAS COMPLEX. THE TWIN'S HEARTS OVERLAPPED, AND THEIR LIVERS WERE CONNECTED. THEY SHARED BLOOD CIRCULATION, INTESTINES,

Christopher Moir, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

BILE DUCTS AND MORE.

"CALL IT EXPERIENCE, INSTINCT,
FAITH, IT WAS THERE. I KNEW WE
COULD DO IT."

DR. CHRISTOPHER MOIR [MOY-ER]
HEADED THE 70-MEMBER TEAM
THAT OPERATED ON ABBY AND
BELLE.

Christopher Moir, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

"AND AT 4:28 THIS MORNING THEY
BEGAN THEIR NEW, SEPARATE,
BEAUTIFUL WONDERFUL LIVES."

**VO: Abby and Belle playing with
parents**

"I'M GOING TO GET YOU, GET YOU,
GET YOU!"

NOW THAT THEY'RE IN THEIR OWN,
SO TO SPEAK, ABBY AND BELLE
ARE GROWING STRONG. RIGHT ON
SCHEDULE FOR MILESTONES LIKE
CRAWLING, WALKING AND
TALKING.

Jesse Carlsen

"IT'S LIKE THEY'VE BEEN APART
THE WHOLE TIME."

Amy Carlsen

"THEIR PERSONALITIES ARE

Amy Carlsen

COMPLETELY OPPOSITE."
AND WHILE THEY DO HAVE THEIR
OWN PERSONALITIES, THEY WILL
ALWAYS SHARE A SPECIAL BOND.
"THEY KIND OF REACH FOR EACH
OTHER. LAUGH AT EACH OTHER."
ABBY AND BELLE MAY NEED SOME
REVISIONAL SURGERIES AT SOME
POINT, BUT DR. MOIR SAYS THEIR
FUTURES ARE VERY BRIGHT.

**Christopher Moir, M.D.
Mayo Clinic**

"THEY'RE DOING GREAT. THEY'RE
GOING TO BE NORMAL LITTLE
GIRLS WITH A STORY TO TELL."
AND THAT STORY IS UNFOLDING
EVERY DAY.

Amy Carlsen

"IT'S AMAZING. JUST LOOKING AT
THEM EVERYDAY AND KNOWING
WHAT WE WENT THROUGH.
THEY'RE LITTLE MIRACLES."
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Abby and Belle recently celebrated their first birthday. You can learn more about the twins by visiting our Web site at ...

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