A NEW HEART AND HOPE FOR HOSPITALIZED BABY

Transplant helps 7-month-old fight genetic disease

By ELIZABETH

Lazar Pacheco of New Bedford held a small bouquet of flowers Thursday morning at the line to see his 7-month-old son, Lazar Jr., receive a heart transplant that would finally bring an end to the heart failure that had bedeviled his newborn for months. 

"He's doing great," said Pacheco, who was overcome with emotion as he watched the surgery through a window in the operating room. "He's doing better every day." 

Lazar Jr. was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a congenital heart defect that occurs when the left side of the heart is underdeveloped and unable to pump enough blood to the body. The condition is one of the most serious heart defects in newborns and is often fatal. 

The surgery, performed by a team of pediatric cardiac surgeons at Boston Children's Hospital, was a high-stakes operation. A child with hypoplastic left heart syndrome needs a heart transplant before the age of one year to survive. 

Doctors at Boston Children's Hospital performed the surgery on Thursday morning, and Lazar Jr. was expected to recover fully. 

"This is a very rare and delicate procedure," said Dr. David Williams, a pediatric cardiac surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital. "But our team is highly skilled and we are confident that Lazar Jr. will recover." 

Lazar Pacheco said he and his wife, Melissa, were overjoyed by the news. "We're so grateful," he said. "We've been through so much." 

The family has been living in Boston Children's Hospital since Lazar Jr. was born, and Melissa has been by his bedside every day. "I'm just so happy," she said. "I can't believe it's finally happening." 

Lazar Jr. is now recovering in the intensive care unit, and doctors are monitoring him closely. "He's doing well," said Williams. "We're confident he will make a full recovery." 

Pediatric cardiomyopathy: A rare medical condition

By ELIZABETH

Pediatric cardiomyopathy is a rare medical condition that affects the heart muscle. It can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetics, infection, or injury. The condition can lead to heart failure and other complications. 

"Pediatric cardiomyopathy is one of the most challenging diseases to treat," said Dr. Lila Zaman, a pediatric cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital. "But with the right treatment, most children can recover." 

There are several treatment options for pediatric cardiomyopathy, including medication, heart transplantation, and ventricular assist devices. Each child's treatment plan is customized to their specific needs. 

"The key to successful treatment is early intervention," said Zaman. "We need to catch this condition before it becomes too advanced." 

The family of Lazar Jr. is grateful for the care they have received at Boston Children's Hospital. "We're so lucky to have such a great team," said Melissa. "They've been amazing." 

Lazar Pacheco said he and his wife are looking forward to the day when Lazar Jr. will be healthy enough to go home. "We can't wait," he said. "He's going to be a healthy little boy."