



Tyler was born by an emergency C-section on December 7th, 2005 at Miami Valley Hospital; he weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 19 ¼ inches long. Throughout the pregnancy his heartbeat was normal and none of the ultrasounds showed any signs of problems. Then, late in the pregnancy an obstetrician thought Tyler was small for his gestational age and ordered a late term ultrasound.

On December 6th, the ultrasound showed an enlarged left ventricle and a cardiologist was called in to review the ultrasound. Dr. Dillon noticed that something was wrong with Tyler's heart and decided that he needed to be delivered very soon. Tyler was delivered two weeks before his due date.

He was taken immediately to the NICU. It was about an hour before his parents were able to see him. They were with him for about 20 minutes before he was transported to Cincinnati Children's Medical Center in an incubator by ambulance.

The nursing staff was nice enough to make sure his parents had pictures of Tyler before he left. It was two days before his parents could join him in Cincinnati. Tyler was diagnosed with critical aortic stenosis, left ventricular hypertrophy and moderate mitral valve incompetence.

Upon arrival at the hospital he underwent a balloon dilation valvuloplasty to widen his aortic valve. This surgery was only a temporary solution to get his aorta opened so the blood would not flow back into his left ventricle. It worked for the most part, but a lot of blood was still not being pumped out of his heart.

After all the waiting, prayers were finally answered. It was exactly two months and one day after Tyler was born that he was able to go home. Tyler shocked the hospital staff by meeting all the goals they set and was discharged on February 8, 2006....without having his open-heart surgery. Tyler is a fighter, as are so many other children born with heart defects. Unfortunately, not all of them are as fortunate as Tyler.

It was months later that Tyler quit gaining weight. So, he had to go back to the hospital for a feeding tube. It was during this visit that his surgery was scheduled for May 31, 2006. The doctors decided the best approach to "fix" his defect was to perform the Ross-Konno procedure.

As the date of the surgery approached the cardiologist talked to the parents about postponing the surgery for a few more months. His reasoning behind this was that Tyler had begun to gain the weight he needed.

As Tyler's parents talked through the options, they talked about how they had been watching Tyler begin to deteriorate. They decided it was in Tyler's best interest to go through with the May 31 surgery date.

Tyler came out of surgery with minimal complications. He stayed in the hospital for 7 days and ever since Tyler's surgery, he has been a different boy. He is full of so much energy, and getting into everything that little boys do.