



Meet Celeste

Donations provided a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine used to detect spina bifida in kids like Celeste.

During their 20-week ultrasound, Akosua and her husband, Fernando, eagerly awaited news about their second child's gender. But the technician's expression hinted at a potential issue. The next Monday, they got the news: their baby had spina bifida.

Akosua, determined to explore all options, did research, and found that Orlando Health offered surgery for unborn babies with spina bifida. She quickly reached out to the Fetal Care Center at Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. Within a week, she had an appointment and started an evaluation to see if she and her baby were candidates for fetal surgery. Thankfully, they were eligible, and at 25 weeks into her pregnancy, Akosua underwent surgery to repair her baby's spinal defect while she was still in the womb.

The surgery went well, and at a little over 32 weeks, baby Celeste was born weighing 4 pounds, 10 ounces. Akosua said, "When she was born, she cried and looked like a healthy baby."

After a short stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to ensure her health, Celeste finally went home. Now, at 7 years old, she is thriving. She walks on her own and enjoys gymnastics and swimming – things that may not have been possible without fetal surgery. Celeste also enjoys playing with her sister and her favorite characters are Avatars and Bluey.

As Celeste grows, she will continue to get care at the Spina Bifida Clinic at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. Every day, she continues to amaze her family. They are grateful for the life-changing surgery and the team at Orlando Health who have and continue to support them throughout this journey.



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