

OPERATION BRAVEHEART

Dear children and parents/carers who have experienced a child's heart surgery

My name is Cynthia Hunter. I am a social researcher and I would like your help in learning how children, and their parents, understand why they need heart surgery. I would like to know about your personal experiences and those of your child. I am also interested in what your child's surgery was like for your family, your siblings and friends.

My aim is to use this learning to make the experience of having heart surgery better for your child, you, your family and friends and other children in the future. All you need to do is be willing to tell your story to me about the experience. You can choose the place where you meet with me to talk.

Your involvement in the study is voluntary. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. This study is being conducted with another research group in Cape Town, South Africa. This is the first time this study has been done in Australia. You can see more on Facebook under **Operation BraveHeart** or the website www.braveheartfoundation.org

If you are interested please contact me:

Cynthia Hunter - 0415 202 611
02 9036 5045 (The University of Sydney)
cynthia.hunter@sydney.edu.au

PATIENT STORY

Tamsyn Miseroole

Tamsyn Miseroole is a sweet 7 year old girl recruited into the study on the 21 November 2011. She lives with her mom, dad, sister and cousin in the southern suburbs of Cape Town. One of Tamsyn's heart valves was too thick to allow an easy flow of blood to and from the heart and her surgery to narrow this valve took place on the 22 November. Tamsyn spent about a week in hospital. We visited with her mom during that time and again two months later. Tamsyn recovered very well from her



heart surgery, and her mom reports that Tamsyn has always been a healthy, active child but the surgery was necessary to prevent anything going wrong in the future. The best way Mrs Miseroole understood Tamsyn's heart problem was that 'it is like 50 people trying to rush through a door at the same time and it is causing Tammy's heart to work very hard'. If the valve thickens as Tamsyn grows, she may need surgery again in future.

See more at: www.braveheartfoundation.org/stories