

Angus' Story



'Angus' condition was detected during our 20 week anomaly scan. We will never forget the sonographer saying the words, 'Jane, there's something wrong with your baby's heart.' In that moment, our world stood still and we were never quite the same again.

Angus was delivered in London at 39+2 weeks. The team that was with us and those who received him onto the NICU were absolutely brilliant.

Although Angus has a VSD, every time his heart beat, the hole was blocked by a piece of tissue within his heart. This meant there was almost no blood mixing and he was very poorly.

The cardiologist from GOSH was on hand to perform the balloon septostomy and when Angus was only three hours old he was stabilised quickly. Three days later we were transferred to GOSH and on day five, Angus had his switch operation.

I remember being so scared and thinking that he seemed so stable – why did they need to cut into his precious chest? The surgeon's harsh-but-true words brought us crashing back to reality, 'You understand your son's condition is incompatible with life?'

His journey from there was pretty smooth sailing. Angus is now a happy, chilled out, life-loving, adventuring one year-old. Nothing phases him and he smiles so much that I think his face must hurt by the end of each day! His heart appears to be doing just as it should and his cardiology reviews so far have been reassuring. The doctors tell us he is now a 'normal baby', although we will always know how special he is.

Along this journey, we've come across so many parents who have had to deal with the terrifying ordeal of having a baby with Transposition of the Great Arteries that was not diagnosed until after birth. They have told us stories of having to watch their child become life-threateningly ill and having to leave older siblings with no warning, whilst being blue lighted to their nearest heart unit.'

'Although the second half of my pregnancy was incredibly hard, we feel phenomenally grateful that our son was diagnosed antenatally. He was in the best possible hands when he came into this world and needed care most. It is thanks to the work of your charity that this is possible. We know you've done training at Peterborough City Hospital and that may be the reason our sonographer decided to get a second opinion.

Your work saved his life and we are eternally grateful.'

- Jane, Angus' Mum

