

# Sienna's Story



'When I was pregnant with Sienna, I had numerous scans because there was a high amount of fluid around the baby. The midwife checked my baby's heartbeat and noticed it always jumped around, however she put this down to Sienna being an active baby.'

I had Sienna by an elective c-section at 39 weeks. When the doctors came to examine her, they couldn't check her heart because she was crying so much. We left the hospital and went home with a seemingly healthy baby.

I was breastfeeding Sienna and, for the first two days, everything went well. But then she just stopped latching on. I became increasingly concerned about her breathing, which was fast and rapid. I mentioned this to the midwife, who told me it was normal for a newborn. However, something just didn't feel right to me.

When Sienna was one week old, she went a whole day without feeding. That night she was groggy and wouldn't settle. I took her to the GP, who checked Sienna's tummy and said there was nothing wrong with her. She didn't check Sienna's temperature or her SATS. I was still really concerned, so I went to the midwife clinic. By that point, Sienna had turned grey. The midwife checked her heart rate and it was going really fast, so she called an ambulance.

It turned out that Sienna had Transposition of the Great Arteries and Coarctation of the Aorta. She was transferred to a bigger hospital to have a balloon septostomy. At sixteen days old, Sienna had her open heart surgery and one week later, we were allowed to bring her home. I am still in shock when I think about what happened. It's something you can't imagine anyone going through and yet it happened to us. I was so unprepared.

I can't bear to think what may have happened if I'd listened to the GP instead of following my instincts. I know how lucky we are to have Sienna with us.'

'Had Sienna's heart defects been diagnosed during one of my many pregnancy scans or before we left the hospital, things would have been so different. She would have had the medical care she needed as soon as she arrived. Instead, she became dangerously ill before she received a diagnosis. That's why the early detection of heart defects is so vital.'

- Kirsty, Sienna's Mum

