

A true Superhero's
fight for life. Little
Kenslie's story about
her battle with
mid-aortic syndrome.



This all started on January 29, 2015 when she seemed to be getting a cold and teething. She had a fever, congestion and small cough. Within 24 hours, she was shaking when she tried to breath and her little heart was racing. She was rushed to the Palmetto Health Children's Hospital on January 30, 2015 where she went into congestive heart failure as well as renal failure. They tried for several hours to stabilize her for transportation to MUSC in Charleston. When it became apparent that she would not survive here, they flew her out anyway. She coded mid air and was revived by the flight crew. Upon arrival she was heavily sedated for stabilization. Her condition continued to deteriorate even though they tried desperately to correct the issues and find someone in the medical field that knew why this was happening and how to correct it. They finally established that she has a coarctation of the abdominal aorta. These aortas carry vital blood supply to the kidneys. It was discovered that her abdominal aortas and kidneys were malformed and unable to handle the load anymore which placed a great strain on the heart. On February 16th, when Kenslie's care team finally saw a small window in the blizzard in Boston and her condition could wait no more, they airlifted her to the Boston Children's Hospital. While being transported off of the plane, she coded again. They were able to revive her again and get her back on stable ground for treatment. She underwent many procedures but ultimately lost one of her kidneys and had to have stents placed in the aorta to the remaining kidney. She was finally aloud to come home the last week of May. She is very closely monitored daily at home and by physicians here. She makes regular trips to Boston to see her physicians there, too. She takes a great deal of medication daily and it has been quite the financial and emotional burden on the family.

Through it all, somehow, she has remained an extremely happy and "normal" little girl. Her heart is finally strong enough for a much needed procedure. Kenslie's Boston Care Team have decided that September 1st is the day they will perform an aortoaortic bypass. This involves removing the stents as well as the bad sections of the aorta, cutting the kidney free from its current location and moving to the good portion of the aorta, reattaching it and the aorta together. Hopefully her body will accept all of these changes. The hope is that this will be the last major surgery. She will likely be cut the entire length of her little abdomen/chest and be on medication the rest of her life as well as have activity restrictions. But we can live with that. This will be the 2nd time this surgery has been performed on a child. Fingers crossed and lots of prayers.