

Eden Prairie, Minnesota – May 2, 2016 - Surgeons at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas successfully performed the surgical separation of 10-month-old conjoined twins, Scarlett and Ximena Hernandez-Torres. HotDog pediatric patient warming was selected by the surgical team to maintain the twins’ core temperature during the procedure.

The separation and ensuing reconstructive procedures required months of preparation and a diverse team of medical professionals from various specialties, including urology, plastic surgery and orthopedics. According to pediatric surgeon/team lead, Haroon Patel, M.D., “Things couldn’t have gone better.” Once anesthesia was administered, they had the twins separated within 3 hours, followed by 9 additional hours of reconstructive procedures.

“In all surgery—but especially surgery of this magnitude—preventing hypothermia is critical,” said Brent Augustine, President of Augustine Temperature Management, which manufactures the HotDog system. “Unintended hypothermia contributes to many complications, including increased wound infections, increased blood loss, and increased transfusion requirements.”

The HotDog system utilized included the Pediatric Underbody Warming Mattress and Pediatric Head Warming Wraps. These products were chosen for their exclusive ability to safely warm the patients while allowing full access for the exceptional critical care team, a requirement given the unique challenges of this operation.

“Maintaining normothermia in pediatric patients is notoriously challenging due to the minimal surface area available to warm,” Dr. Scott Augustine, inventor of HotDog Patient Warming, explained. “Because HotDog warms below and above the patient, and because it doesn’t blow air which can unintentionally cause evaporative cooling, the team was able to effectively prevent hypothermia, which may have contributed to such positive outcomes from Scarlett and Ximena’s surgeries.”

In a press conference at Driscoll Children’s Hospital on April 15th, Dr. Patel explained that extensive blood loss is common in surgeries like this, and the team was well-prepared with blood supply reserves in anticipation of Scarlett and Ximena’s case. Luckily, it wasn’t needed. Reporting on the twins’ blood loss, Dr. Patel stated, “Fortunately we had almost next to [no blood loss] with one of the twins, and [not] too much with the other twin.”

Scarlett and Ximena are recovering well, and will remain at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit throughout their recovery. A recent Facebook post updating followers on their progress indicates Scarlett and Ximena’s beds have been moved closer to one another so they can be together on the long road to recovery.

Augustine Temperature Management is honored to have been chosen for this complex procedure. The entire HotDog team congratulates everyone involved in the extraordinary surgery. We wish Scarlett and Ximena a speedy recovery—and the Hernandez-Torres family all the best.

About HotDog® Patient Warming:

The HotDog patient warming system is a state-of-the-art, conductive fabric temperature management solution that prevents and treats perioperative hypothermia. Used in some of the most prestigious hospitals in the world, HotDog patient warming is an air-free system that is effective and safe even in ultra-clean surgeries.

Dr. Scott Augustine invented the patient warming field, when he pioneered forced-air warming 25 years ago. Since then, hundreds of millions of patients have received the benefits of normothermia during surgery. Due to concerns with patient safety in ultra-clean surgeries, Dr. Augustine and his team of engineers sought to create an alternative warming solution to meet the needs of the healthcare community. HotDog is produced by Augustine Temperature Management.