

ENT

 dayton children's

# quarterly update

second quarter • 2020



## Ellie & Dr. Elluru

Ellie was a patient at Dayton Children's Hospital before she was even born. When her mom, Jackie, was just 22 weeks pregnant, they found a heart defect during an ultrasound. This defect would require heart surgery soon after she was born.

Because Ellie was born with Down syndrome and had some additional medical complexities, she was followed by several specialists at Dayton Children's, including cardiologist Luby Abdurrahman, MD, neurologist Gogi Kumar, MD and gastroenterologist Kathryn Williams, MD. She eventually visited another hospital to have her heart surgery and have a tracheostomy and gastrostomy tube placed.

While following up with that hospital, Jackie was told, "Because your daughter has Down syndrome you can expect her to do this, this and this."

She was disappointed to have her daughter treated as a "textbook case" and not as an individual. That all changed when Dr. Ravi Elluru, pediatric ENT specialist, came to see Ellie in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at Dayton Children's.

"When Dr. Elluru consulted on Ellie's case, I mentioned that we had been told that because Ellie had Down syndrome, her life would be a certain way," said Jackie. "But, Dr. Elluru said, 'I'm going to treat Ellie, like Ellie, and let's go from there.' He didn't want to follow a certain path, just because of her diagnosis. Because of this, we immediately knew he was the doctor for us."

Ellie started seeing Dr. Elluru at Dayton Children's shortly after the initial consult and her first surgery with him was in August 2015.

Since that first surgery, Ellie has had more than a dozen surgeries with Dr. Elluru, spanning from tonsil and adenoid removal to airway reconstruction. A final hurdle for Ellie has been the removal of her trach, which she uses to help her breathe. Jackie had been told how most children with Down syndrome would progress with a trach on a certain timeline. But, Ellie is not most children.

Last fall, after several scopes and a comprehensive sleep study, Dr. Elluru called Jackie and said, "Hey mama, are you ready to get Ellie's trach out?"

Dr. Elluru removed Ellie's tracheostomy tube in November 2019 and now, Ellie's airway is stable and she is thriving.

"With Dr. Elluru, we are more than just a number. He always asks about each of our family members by name and is just so personable," said Jackie. "Ellie just adores him. A few years ago, we never could have imagined we could get to this point, but Dr. Elluru helped us get here."

# Q&A: voice clinic

The voice clinic at Dayton Children's evaluates children, teenagers and young adults with a variety of problems that affect their voice and/or breathing. Katie Schuster, speech language pathologist at Dayton Children's answers some questions about the clinic and who can benefit from an appointment with the multidisciplinary team.

## What is the voice clinic?

The voice clinic at Dayton Children's Hospital specializes in the evaluation and treatment of voice disorders and airway issues. The clinic consists of a comprehensive team including speech-language pathologists, ENT and nursing staff.

## What is the most common reason kids and teenagers come to the voice clinic for treatment?

The two most common complaints we see in this age group include dysphonia (difficulty voicing) and Vocal Fold Dysfunction (difficulty breathing that is not related to asthma).

## What does a typical appointment look like?

An appointment in the voice clinic lasts around one hour. First, a nurse will room the patient and go over the clinic procedures with the patient and family. A speech-language pathologist will then take an extensive medical history and discuss the current voice/breathing complaint with the patient. Often, the patient or patient's caregiver will complete additional forms to rate their symptoms. Next, the patient will complete additional acoustic, aerodynamic, and/or perceptual measurements in our computer lab. Lastly, an ENT specialist will complete a scope to visualize anatomy and physiology of the vocal folds. Once all the information is gathered, a comprehensive treatment plan is created.

**Voice clinic runs every Thursday from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at the south campus. We offer outpatient treatment for appropriate patients at the main and south campuses Monday-Friday.**



# the pediatric difference in anesthesiology

Dayton Children's is uniquely prepared to care for your child before, during and after surgery

Kids are not "little adults" and deserve care designed for them. When your child has surgery at Dayton Children's, they're being treated by a surgery team of health care professionals that are specifically trained to care for children. This is especially important when your child requires anesthesia for their surgery or procedure. All of the anesthesiologists at Dayton Children's are pediatric board certified and only take care of children. Pediatric anesthesiologist Sean Antosh, MD, explains why this is important and why Dayton Children's is uniquely prepared to care for your child before, during and after surgery.

## **Why is it important for kids undergoing surgery to be treated by a pediatric anesthesiologist?**

Children have very different physiology as they grow from infants to adults. Therefore, they need an anesthesiologist who is trained in their special needs and how their bodies react differently to medications typically used during surgery.

## **What are potential risks associated with using an anesthesiologist that does not typically treat kids?**

While most anesthesiologists are capable of taking care of all patients, pediatric anesthesiologists are acutely aware of the common heart and breathing issues that may arise during surgery. We are able to accurately diagnosis and treat these issues before they become an emergency.



## **What education and training are required to be a pediatric anesthesiologist?**

Board certified pediatric anesthesiologists have been through four years of undergraduate education, four years of medical school, four years of general anesthesiology and critical care training, and an additional one to two years of pediatric anesthesiology fellowship. After all of this training, they then complete board certification for general anesthesiology, as well as an additional certification for pediatrics.

## **What does Dayton Children's do to make kids that have to undergo anesthesia more comfortable?**

As pediatric anesthesiologists, we interact with the patients and their parents to find out what the child likes and dislikes to help avoid anxiety. Sometimes we play games, use distraction devices (such as an iPad) or use remote controlled airplanes to take them to the operating room.

Occasionally, we will have to give a drinkable medication to help them relax during the process.

For our autism spectrum and special needs patients, we have one of a kind sensory rooms that patients can relax in prior to surgery. We also have a pediatric acute pain service, which provides nerve blocks for common orthopedic and general pediatric surgeries to help decrease discomfort and need for pain medications post-operatively.



**Sean Antosh, MD**  
Pediatric anesthesiologist

# introducing: vascular anomalies clinic



# making care convenient

Dayton Children's is making it easier than ever for patients to schedule an appointment with a pediatric ENT specialist. Online scheduling is available for in-person, new patient appointments only. Visit [www.childrensdayton.org/schedule-ent-appointment](http://www.childrensdayton.org/schedule-ent-appointment) to schedule an appointment with one of our pediatric, fellowship-trained providers.

Video visits are currently available for some appointment types and conditions. If your patient family is interested in a virtual appointment, advise the family to ask their scheduler if a video visit is an option for care.

The vascular anomalies clinic at Dayton Children's Hospital is comprised of specialists from:

- Hematology/oncology
- ENT
- Plastic surgery
- Pediatric surgery
- Interventional radiology

Our comprehensive, multidisciplinary team has expertise in the diagnosis, management and treatment of vascular anomalies, including hemangiomas and vascular tumors. The clinic sees patients on the third Tuesday of the month in the hematology/oncology outpatient clinic at Dayton Children's main campus.

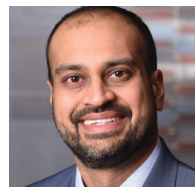
## your Dayton Children's pediatric ENT team



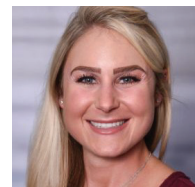
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