

Baby survives with "Whole Body Cooling"

Posted: Feb 07, 2014 4:12 AM Updated: Feb 07, 2014 4:12 AM

By Chris Stipes, Anchor -

Read more: <http://www.myfoxfhouston.com/story/24658701/2014/02/06/baby-survives-with-whole-body-cooling#ixzz2t65AsZ6w>
<http://www.myfoxfhouston.com/story/24658701/2014/02/06/baby-survives-with-whole-body-cooling>



HOUSTON (FOX 26) -

The sound of baby Jenesis Davis crying at the Texas Children's Hospital NICU is music to her mom, Taylor Nelson's, ears. "Grateful, very thankful," said the 21-year-old first time mom.

When Jenesis was born 2 weeks ago in Nagadoches, she didn't cry at all. "I seen nurses running back and forth and hear code blue, that's not normal," said Nelson.

During a complicated birth, Jenesis went without oxygen for about 4 minutes which can cause brain damage, developmental disorders or even death. "I didn't hear her breathing," said Tamala Timmons, the baby's grandmother. Only 1 or 2 babies out of every 1,000 born are born without enough oxygen.

Turning blue, but alive, Jenesis and her grandmother were flown to Texas Children's in Houston. "The range of emotions I had was I'm losing my grandbaby and this time I don't know what I'm gonna say to my daughter," said Timmons. "I was thinking in my head after all this after all this pushing and going through all this, I don't want to lose her... it was hard for me," said Nelson.

It was at TCH where little Jenesis underwent "whole body cooling," also called therapeutic hypothermia. "It's completely a race against time," said Dr. Jeffrey Kaiser, the director of the neonatal hypothermia program at TCH. Doctors dropped the baby's temperature to about 90-degrees with, what is essentially, a cooling blanket for 3 days. "The cells that would've died, kind of go to sleep. The cooling causes the metabolism of the brain to kind of shut down, so those cells that would've died don't die," said Dr. Kaiser. Amazingly, when the cooling was complete, an MRI of the baby's brain was normal. "Stay positive through the whole process, even when you're going through it stay positive," said Nelson.

Read more: <http://www.myfoxfhouston.com/story/24658701/2014/02/06/baby-survives-with-whole-body-cooling#ixzz2t6506yXS>