

### Mayo Clinic 150th Collection of Stories

#### **Straightening Scoliosis**

Intro: Scoliosis is a condition that causes your spine to curve. It's often diagnosed during the early teen years, and many times it can be corrected with a brace. But the little boy you're about to meet was born with scoliosis. Bracing wouldn't work because a vertebra in his spine was not shaped normally. He needed surgery, and thanks to a special relationship between Mayo Clinic and Shriner's Hospitals for Children, he got the treatment he needed.

#### **Video**

#### **Audio**

<b>TRT 3:55</b> <b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	When you watch little Hank Arneson on the move, it's hard to imagine he was born with a serious case of scoliosis.
<b>Kati Arneson</b> <b>Hank's mom</b>	"You kind of check out your new baby, and his back was crooked, and I thought, that's just how babies are."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Hanks' mom Kati and dad Tracy were vigilant. When his back continued to look a bit different, they took him to a local doctor who told them the diagnosis.
<b>Tracy Arneson</b> <b>Hank's dad</b>	"That it was scoliosis."
<b>Kati Arneson</b>	"It was a helpless feeling, but thankfully it was something that could be fixed."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Surgery was essential because the curve in Hank's back would get worse as he grew.
<b>Anthony Stans, M.D.</b> <b>Mayo Clinic surgeon</b>	"The curve was getting bigger and bigger, and what tends to happen then in congenital scoliosis is not only that the main curve gets worse, but there are compensatory curves from above and below and they start getting worse. And so all of a sudden, that relatively small abnormality starts affecting a much bigger area of the spine and so patients start to have problems with back pain and, depending on the location of the vertebrae and how severe it becomes, it

	can eventually cause heart or lung problems.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Mayo Clinic pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Anthony Stans led the team that cared for Hank. And that team reached beyond the walls of Mayo Clinic. You see, after diagnosis, Hank’s parents took him to Shriner’s Hospitals for Children – Twin Cities.
<b>Terri Kasbohn Shriner’s Hospitals for Children</b>	“Shriner’s has had a long relationship with Mayo Clinic going back 20 to 25 years.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	And in 2013, it became part of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, so that even more patients can access the expertise of Mayo Clinic specialists like Dr. Stans.
<b>Tracy Arneson Hank’s dad</b>	“To access all the wonderful things they do there, takes away some of the stress.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	The stress of knowing your child has a health problem, and the stress of handing him over to a team of experts who, during surgery, hold his future in their hands.
<b>Kati Arneson</b>	“That was my hardest. Still my hardest.”
<b>Tracy Arneson Hank’s dad</b>	“You can’t go see him, you can’t – no contact. You just have to wait for them to come and tell you your child’s ok and get him back.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	The wait lasted close to 12 hours. Normal spines have vertebrae that are like stacked boxes. Hank had one vertebra that was shaped like a triangle, and that caused the stack to curve. Surgery required removing the triangular vertebra and reinforcing the spine with hardware. Thanks to new technology, Dr. Stans was able to perform Hank’s surgery through two small incisions.
<b>Anthony Stans, M.D. Mayo Clinic surgeon</b>	“This is a three-dimensional model that we make from data that’s collected from a CAT scan before surgery. With some computer software we can identify where on the model our screws and hooks should be placed. We sort of do the operation on the computer in advance of the surgery and then print out the model and then carry the model with us into surgery.”
<b>Kati Arneson Hank’s mom</b>	“We prayed that the right medical team would be in that room and I absolutely believe that happened.”
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Recovery was a little tough at first, but after a few days Hank went home to his

	mom, dad and baby brother. He was in a body cast for three months. Here, at his one-year, post surgery check-up, x-rays show Hank is almost completely healed.
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Dr. Stans says, like all kids who have surgery to correct scoliosis, Hank should avoid high impact, contact sports like football or wrestling. But other than that, Hank, who is almost five, is completely back in action.
<b>Kati Arneson</b>	"He is constantly going, he does not stop, he's a fighter."
	For Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.

Anchor tag: Dr. Stans says except for avoiding high impact sports, Hank has no restrictions and should not need more surgery for this issue in the future.

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