

Adopted boy thriving after liver transplant

Video	Audio
Serena Krejchi	"I think now that he can move, like now that he's found that he can move, that's all he wants to do."
	Ary Krejchi is a typical toddler on the move.
	(NATS)But what this little boy has been through in his short life is anything but typical.
Sara Hassan, M.D. Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Mayo Clinic	"I still get chills when I hear this story because it's such a real story of how people really advocate for each other."
	Ary was adopted from India a year ago by his parents, Serena and Jon Krejchi. The couple knew before bringing him home that he would face some medical challenges.
Serena Krejchi	"He would most likely need a liver transplant in a matter of months."
	But when they got to India, they realized how dire Ary's situation was. At just a year and a half, he only weighed 11 pounds and had multiple broken bones — on top of having liver disease.
Serena Krejchi Ary's Mother	"His caregivers brought him out swaddled in a blanket, and he was just very, very small — much smaller than what we had anticipated."
	The Krejchis got him back to the U.S. and brought him straight to Mayo Clinic in Rochester.
Dr. Hassan	"We have to get him to the intensive care unit right now."
	Dr. Sara Hassan, a pediatric transplant hepatologist and gastroenterologist, says during the months when Ary was rehabilitating, his medical team had the time to study how extensive his liver damage was, and prepared for what

	would be a complicated transplant.
Dr. Hassan	"I think doing a liver transplant for that age group is really difficult, just for the size of everything so small."
	Ary underwent a successful liver transplant in September of 2021.
Serena Krejchi	"I think that really surprised a lot of people."
(NATS of appointment) Dr. Hassan	"He went from being carried, to now walking, talking — most charming smile ever."
Dr. Hassan	"I tell the parents, 'He's my walking miracle,' you know, haha."
	While Ary's journey hasn't been an easy one, the Krejchis believe it's the path they were always meant to be on.
Serena Krejchi	"I hope that he knows how much that we just love and cherish him, and we're so proud of everything he's gone through."
Nats	"High-five ... night job!"
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.