

**'In the blink of an eye,' healthy teen needs new heart**

VIDEO	AUDIO
	---NATS casting----
	Wetting a line...
<b>Braxton</b>	"Whatever they like to bite is what I like to throw."
	-----NATS setting hook on a fish "There's one!"-----
	... and catching fish is just one of the many passions of young teen Braxton Wohlferd.
<b>Braxton Wohlferd St. Charles, Minnesota</b>	"I just like the aspect of being outdoors and just hanging out with people and having fun."
	----nats from the kitchen?----
	But earlier this year, this healthy, athletic high schooler from St. Charles, Minnesota, had his world turned upside down in a flash.
<b>Melissa</b>	"He called frantically."
	It was the morning after his 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Braxton thought he had the stomach flu. He was vomiting. Suddenly, it got much worse.
<b>Braxton</b>	"I was like, 'You need to get home. Something's not right.'"
	His mom, Melissa, a registered nurse, arrived moments later.
<b>Melissa</b>	"And he was lying on the floor, and his hands and feet were mottling."
<b>Braxton</b>	"My hands were turning, like, blue, almost. And then we tried to come upstairs, and I collapsed on the third stair."
<b>Melissa Wohlferd Braxton's Mother</b>	"He said, 'Mom, I just can't do it. I can't catch my breath. My chest hurts.'"
	-----nats of siren----
	Braxton was rushed to the Emergency Department at Mayo Clinic. Not long after he arrived, he went

	into cardiac arrest. Life-saving CPR was performed....
<b>Melissa</b>	"I believe it was 22 minutes, full chest compressions."
	... until Braxton was put on a life support machine.
<b>Melissa</b>	"His heart never beat again."
	But why?
<b>Melissa</b>	"Completely healthy and then, within a blink of an eye, he's hooked up to every machine possible, keeping him alive."
	Doctors at Mayo soon solved the mystery — a common childhood illness called parvovirus B19, also known as fifth disease.
<b>Dr. Ameduri</b>	"The majority of people who get parvovirus may not even know that they've had it."
	Dr. Rebecca Ameduri is medical director of the Pediatric Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program at Mayo Clinic.
<b>Rebecca Ameduri, M.D. Pediatric Cardiology Mayo Clinic</b>	"Most people, when they get parvovirus, will just have kind of common cold effects and will not have severe side effects like Braxton did."
	Braxton's body had an extremely rare reaction to the virus...
<b>Melissa</b>	"They said it was more likely to get struck by lightning."
	... causing his own immune system to attack and break down his heart muscle.
<b>Dr. Ameduri</b>	"Sometimes, in cases like Braxton, it's what we call fulminant myocarditis, where it happens very rapidly, where those children can deteriorate in less than 24 hours."
	Braxton's only option ...
<b>Melissa</b>	"It was just ..."

	... a heart transplant.
<b>Melissa</b>	"... so scary."
	-----nats of a heart monitor-----
	In less than a week, a miracle occurs. A donor heart arrives.
<b>Melissa</b>	"It was a perfect match for Braxton."
	And a heart transplant performed by Mayo Clinic surgeons is a success.
<b>Braxton</b>	"It's kind of surreal to think that I'm still here."
<b>Melissa</b>	"Without that organ donor, Braxton would not be here."
<b>Braxton</b>	"Thank you doesn't even cover what I'd like to say. It's unbelievable. It's a selfless act that they give their organs away."
	The virus also affected Braxton's legs, causing a condition known as compartment syndrome, which required emergency surgery to remove some of his leg muscles.
<b>Braxton</b>	"I feel great. Feel like I'm getting my strength back, and I'm gonna keep working at it and plan on keep getting stronger."
	Braxton hopes to be back playing baseball next year and...
	----fishing nats----
	... planning plenty of future fishing trips.
<b>Braxton</b>	"I don't know how many other people would have went through this and survived. They said I was very lucky, I'm a miracle. And I feel like I'm a miracle."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network...
<b>Braxton</b>	"I've explored this whole lake."
	.... I'm Jason Howland.