



BELIEF IN A *Miracle*

A MOTHER'S INTUITION GIVES HOPE

When Kris Brukl of Brookfield found out in 2008 that she was pregnant with her third child, she wasn't surprised. For three years, she had a feeling that she would have another son. "Some may call it a mother's intuition," Kris says, "but I believe it was something more."

It was this strong belief that gave Kris peace of mind throughout her final pregnancy — one that was destined to be high-risk with a potentially life-threatening delivery.

CRITICAL DIAGNOSIS

As Kris's pregnancy progressed, her OB/Gyn Jim Leonhardt, M.D. began to suspect that she had placenta accreta. Placenta accreta occurs when the placenta attaches too firmly to the inside wall of the uterus and won't release during delivery. This rare disorder is associated with life-threatening complications, including massive bleeding.

"Placenta accreta usually can only be confirmed during delivery," explains Dr. Leonhardt. "But Kris had risk factors of this happening. I hoped for the best, but planned for the absolute worst."

As events unfolded, Kris felt remarkably little stress. "We confirmed I was carrying a boy, and I held to my personal faith and belief system. I knew that Dr. Leonhardt would do all he could to ensure I would be able to raise my little son. I had the right doctor and the right place for the right reasons."

TEAM RESPONSE TO CRISIS

Dr. Leonhardt scheduled a C-section for Kris several weeks before her due date so that all the specialists and advanced technology needed would be waiting:

- Two additional attending OB/Gyns assisted Dr. Leonhardt.
- The anesthesiologist inserted extra lines to monitor for life-threatening bleeding.





- A urologist inserted stents in the ureter in case the placenta accreta had affected the bladder.
- An interventional radiologist was on stand-by in case additional radiology procedures were needed.
- The blood bank had supplied enough blood for emergency procedures if needed, and cell saver technology was on hand to conserve Kris's own blood.

Unfortunately, Kris had the worst-case scenario, and after her C-section, she had to have an emergency hysterectomy and a partial bladder resection. Kris lost a lot of blood, but thanks to the advanced planning, both her delivery and additional procedures were successful.

"The key to Kris's great outcome was the multi-departmental expertise and effort made possible by Waukesha Memorial Hospital," says Dr. Leonhardt. "It has the personal touch of a community hospital backed by a depth of experience, knowledge, technology and state-of-the-art critical care capabilities."

WAKING UP TO GREAT NEWS

When Kris woke several hours later, she learned her son was OK, but in the newborn intensive care unit (NICU) so that his lungs could get stronger.

"I was hit with an overwhelming sense of gratitude to Waukesha Memorial, all of my physicians and those who cared for my son in the NICU," says Kris. "No words, actions or any count of tears can fully express how grateful I am."



ULTIMATE IN CARE FOR MOTHERS & THEIR TINIEST ONES



If your pregnancy is high risk, rest assured that our Perinatal Assessment Center at ProHealth Care's Birthing Centers will address your specific condition and carefully monitor your progress. Our perinatologists specialize in diagnosing and caring for women with high blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid disorders, blood clotting disorders, previous problem pregnancies and a history of early deliveries. We'll do all we can to see you and your baby through your journey — safely.

And if your baby is born earlier than expected — know your tiny miracle will enjoy the highest level of care possible with expertise available through the county's only level III newborn intensive care unit (NICU) at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

Even if your baby weighs less than a pound, our passionate and dedicated specialists offer care 24 hours a day with nurses who have dedicated their entire careers to working with the tiniest of babies. Newborn specialists include: highly skilled neonatologists from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, neonatal nurse practitioners, registered nurses, respiratory therapists and a development team that includes specialists in occupational therapy and breastfeeding.

And we wrap this expertise in a family-centered care philosophy, which means everything we do focuses on your needs, your baby's needs and your family's needs — every baby step of the way.