



Kamyliya Mohamed, 6 years old

Suffering from gastroschisis

“It’s a relief to know that there are people who think about our children, that we have help. It’s hard to explain, but we feel understood and heard: as if all these people are going through the ordeal with us.”



Kamyliya is born at 29 weeks of pregnancy, and about 15 specialists at the CHU Sainte-Justine are on alert to welcome her. It was known from the first ultrasound that Baby’s abdomen had not closed and that her intestines were outside her body. When she is only a few hours old, she goes into the operating room to have her intestines placed back inside her belly. However, due to tissue necrosis, part of the intestine must be removed. For Salomé, her mother, these anxious hours follow months of sorrow, questioning and apprehension. Mom will have to wait another week before she can hold her little girl, who is wired all over. For Kamyliya, the fight has just begun.

Complications follow one another: the stenosis of the intestinal walls involves five other operations in less than six months. A new operation aims to lengthen her intestine, too shortened by the numerous surgeries. Unfortunately, despite all these operations, other complications arise. Because Baby cannot feed normally, a device is installed to feed her intravenously and an ileostomy is performed for waste removal. Salomé, then pregnant with her second child, learns to provide the essential care for her daughter’s survival. Ten months after her birth, Kamyliya can finally go home. But the truce is short-lived. A few weeks later, only two days after the birth of her little sister Aaliyah, a blood

infection forces Kamyliya to return to the hospital. There follows an endless series of long hospitalizations and short returns home, during which Salomé, who is torn, tries to divide her time between her two darlings.

By the time she turns five, Kamyliya will have spent the first four years of her life in the hospital and will have undergone over a dozen surgeries. Since October 2020, she has been doing better. She is still being fed intravenously and receiving her medication through a gastrostomy. Recently, she was able to start kindergarten and, despite the precariousness of her condition, she is happy to live a life almost similar to that of the other children.

Kamyliya’s family thanks you for being there for her and for all the sick children in Québec!

Salomé Després and Aaliyah

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