

MORGAN, Heidi

To correct disfigurement

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BIOGRAPHY - M

Emergency surgery for Heidi at London

By CHRIS MALETTE
Staff Reporter

LONDON, Ont. - Six-year-old Heidi Morgan, the Eldorado girl whose rare bone disease has caused her family to have to accept charity donations to help pay for treatment in Texas, was today undergoing seven hours of emergency surgery in Victoria Hospital here.

A friend of the Morgan family reported today Heidi was taken into surgery at 8 a.m. and was to have undergone a surgical procedure which may eliminate the need for surgery in Texas. Dr. Robert Colcleugh is performing the operation.

The Eldorado girl was to have been treated in Toronto, months ago, by a doctor whose techniques in facial bone surgery made him a world leader in the field.

However, the doctor, Ian Munro, moved his practice to Texas due to the extra-billing dispute and it was discovered Heidi and mother, Christine, would have to travel to the



HEIDI MORGAN

United States for a series of operations.

Heidi's condition is such that the rare bone disease she suffers threatens to permanently disfigure her face as bones on one side of the face grow at a rapid rate.

The North Hastings community rallied to her cause when it was found the family may not receive full OHIP coverage for expenses incurred in travelling to Texas. A fund has been collecting money at a rate which brings the total amount for the family's expenses to more than \$13,000. from donors across Ontario.

In surgery planned for Munro's Texas operations, an abnormally-growing bone in Heidi's face was to be removed and replaced with other bone fragments from other parts of her body to halt the disfigurement.

Details were not available today on the surgery taking place in London's Victoria Hospital. Heidi was not expected to be out of the operating room until at least 3 p.m. today.

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