



Media Release

2 February 2011

Baby after scalpel-free surgery at the Women's

A young woman who was told she could not have children has given birth, thanks to a revolutionary scalpel-free treatment for uterine fibroids at the Royal Women's Hospital.

Amy and Calvin Cordle welcomed their daughter, Neroli, at the Women's on 26 January.

In late 2009 Amy was diagnosed with a large uterine fibroid. It was feared that it would grow further due to hormones in pregnancy and therefore restrict fetal growth. Its size on the lip of her cervix made surgery impossible.

Uterine fibroids are dense, benign tumours in the uterus which often cause pain and heavy bleeding. In Amy's case cervical inflammation, discovered during a routine pap test in 2009, was the only clue.

Amy was referred to the Women's where she was assessed as suitable for Magnetic Resonance guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS).

The MRgFUS facility which was officially launched at the Women's in June 2009 enables uterine fibroids to be treated without a single incision. Since then, 110 women have been treated using the unique facility. An MRI scanner pinpoints the fibroids within the body and then ultrasound waves are used to heat and destroy the fibroid without causing damage to the surrounding tissue.

Normally the recovery period for traditional, invasive surgery is six weeks, but this new and advanced technology means that a woman can have a same-day procedure and resume normal activities within a few days.

In November 2009 Amy underwent a single treatment in the hospital's Pauline Gandel Imaging Centre. At her follow up assessment in March 2010, the fibroid had shrunk by half. A few weeks later Amy and Calvin were given the green light to start a family. In May 2010 Amy was pregnant. On 26 January 2011 Neroli was delivered by Caesarean weighing a healthy 3.2 kilos.

The MRgFUS technology was made possible through the generous philanthropic support of the Pauline Gandel Charitable Trust whose \$1 million donation, in addition to funding provided by the Department of Human Services New Technologies Program, enabled the Women's to purchase this technology and become the only public hospital in Australia able to treat patients with MRgFUS.

For more information please call:

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