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New York, NY - Orthodox Jewish Girl Undergoes Heart Transplant At Children's Hospital At Montefiore

Published on: June 17th, 2014 at 11:13 AM



Malkie Brandler (center, front) at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center on June 10, 2014. With her is Dr. Samuel Weinstein, Director of Pediatrics Cardiothoracics Surgery (left) and her parents Estelle and Josef. (Photo courtesy NY Daily News)

New York, NY - A 21-year-old college student who underwent successful heart transplant surgery just over two weeks ago was able to return home Friday in Spring Valley.

Malkie Brandler, 21, has a normal heart for the first time in her life thanks to Dr. Samuel Weinstein and his transplant team at Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

NY Daily News (<http://nydn.us/1jw90Ec>) reports Brandler, who was born with a single ventricle that didn't allow her heart to divide into four chambers, underwent a six-hour heart transplant surgery on May 28.

"We are religious people. People were praying for her all over the world. May 28th I said, 'That's her new birthday!'" said Estelle Brandler, Malkie's mother.

Brandler is no stranger to heart surgeries – she had three heart surgeries by the age of two.



Pictured on May 15, 2014 Donate Life BBQ Event in Spring Valley: Front row (left to right): Heart recipient Lauren Shields, County Executive Ed Day, Malkie Brandler, waiting for a heart transplant. Back row (left to right): DA Thomas Zugibe, County Clerk Paul Piperato, and County Sheriff Falco.

Dr. Weinstein, director of pediatric cardi thoracic surgery at Montefiore, has completed more than 100 pediatric transplants during his nine years at Montefiore.

The first thing Brandler wants to do when she has fully recovered?

“I want to go on a hike!” said Brandler, who is also an advocate for organ donation and hopes to get a master’s degree in library science after graduating from Rockland Community College.

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