



AL DIAZ, Miami Herald, TNS

Redmond P. Burke, chief of the division of cardiovascular surgery in the heart program at Miami Children's Hospital, holds the 3-D heart on Jan. 14 in Miami. The 3-D heart was used to manipulate the vessels and explore possible repairs prior to the surgery.

Surgeon uses 3-D technology to make model heart to study

Surgeons get ideas to help 4-year-old

Rebecca Savransky
MIAMI HERALD (TNS)

MIAMI — Adaenelie Gonzalez had two open heart surgeries by the time she was 4.

She was born with a heart condition that prevented blood from flowing properly into the heart from the lungs, and the surgeries yielded only a temporary fix.

On a recent Friday, Adaenelie underwent her third open-heart surgery, but this time, the results may be permanent.

The Heart Program at Miami Children's Hospital created a model of Adaenelie's heart using new 3-D printing technology. The model allowed the heart surgeons to thoroughly examine the problem areas of Adaenelie's heart before carrying out the actual surgery. The program is believed to be the first in the region to use the technology for a child born with a complex heart anomaly.

"We were running out of options as she had already had a couple of surgeries in the newborn period," said Dr. Nancy Dobrolet, pediatric cardiologist at Miami Children's Hospital. "It became clear that to prolong her life ... she needed to have another procedure done."

Adaenelie was born with total anomalous pulmonary venous connection, a heart disease in which the four veins that carry blood from the lungs to the heart do not attach to the left atrium. Instead, the blood is transported to a wrong area of the heart, causing breathing difficulties and heart failures.

The 3-D technology lets doctors manipulate blood vessels and explore how to repair the organ's damage before the actual surgery. The 3-D model is identical to the heart being operated on, so doctors can envision



AL DIAZ, Miami Herald, TNS
Patient Adanelie Gonzalez, 4, and mom Gabriella Alonso are pictured at Miami Children's Hospital on Jan. 14.

the procedure in advance. Dr. Redmond Burke, chief of cardiovascular surgery at Miami Children's, said before seeing the 3-D model, he "couldn't picture," the operation. At the time, he said the child's life expectancy was in days or weeks.

Using the model, Burke was able to place a new piece of a heart, which came from a person who died, into the exact location it needed to be in Adaenelie's heart. Once Burke did that, her blood began to flow normally.

"I didn't know if it would work," he said. "But I thought at least we have a chance, and it's worth it for me to put her through the massive trauma of a third open-heart surgery."

To make the heart, the team took complex files and rendered them into a format that could be read by a 3-D printer. Although looking at pictures and computer models helped Burke prepare for the procedure, by holding the model in his hands he could manipulate it and get a sense of the actual operation.

The process of creating the model included several steps, said Chelsea Balli, a biomedical engineer at the hospital. Rendering the files to send to the printer can take from two to 10 hours depending on

the model's specifics. The files were then transmitted to an Atlanta company, AdvancedRP, which constructed the model heart over 24 hours. Advanced RP distributes Stratasy's 3-D printers.

The hospital has purchased its own 3-D printer, paying nearly \$100,000, Balli said. The software costs an additional \$50,000, she said. Balli said the hospital is awaiting delivery of the printer.

Burke said the models will be beneficial both for planning surgeries and for medical education.

"I was able to teach fellows and students what we did using an actual model of her heart," he said. "It's invaluable."

Since the operation, Adaenelie has had an accelerated post-surgery recovery, Burke said. Although she is still in the hospital, she is walking around and playing.

Gabriella Alonso, Adaenelie's mother, said she was starting to lose hope, but Adaenelie will now be heading home soon.

"I didn't know it was possible," she said. "I'm happy."

Flavor Flav pleads not guilty to driving charges

Frank Eltman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINEOLA, N.Y. — Wearing his trademark clock necklace, Flavor Flav pleaded not guilty this week to charges stemming from a traffic stop last year while he was driving to his mother's funeral.

"I don't like the circumstances, but I like the attention," he said while surrounded by a throng of reporters and fans snapping pictures with their cellphones as he waited to be summoned to a Nassau County courtroom.

He was arraigned on a

felony charge of driving with a suspended license. He also faces a speeding violation and two misdemeanors.

He was released without bail. If convicted of the top charge, he could face a maximum of four years in prison.

The 55-year-old rapper and reality TV star, whose real name is William Drayton, declined to discuss the charges against him. His attorney, Indji Bessim, had previously said she was attempting to reach a plea agreement following Flav's stop Jan. 9, 2014, while driving to his mother's funeral.

HealthCalendar

NAMI Connection Recovery and Family Support Groups; 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Epiphany Catholic Church, Normal; 309-287-9913.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Logan County Kickoff; 6 p.m. Monday, Lincoln Christian Church, Lincoln; www.relayforlife.org/loganil.

What's the Buzz About Sugar and Cancer; 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Community Cancer Center, Normal; free; 309-451-8500.

Center for Integrative Medicine One-Year Anniversary Open House; 4 to 7 p.m. Jan. 30, 2422 E. Washington St., Bloomington; acupuncturist, energy healer, massage therapist and yoga/meditation instructor will be among integrative medicine practitioners present; 309-789-8057.

Mental Health First Aid; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 31, Roanoke Mennonite Church, rural Eureka; sponsored by Advocate Eureka Hospital, Center for Human Services of McLean County and Woodford County Health Department; \$20; 800-323-8622.

Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED; 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 2, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's Center for Healthy Lifestyles, Bloomington; \$50; 888-627-5673.

Lymphedema Clinic; 9 a.m. Feb. 2, Community Cancer Center, Normal; 309-451-8500.

Look Good, Feel Better;

5:30 p.m. Feb. 2, Community Cancer Center, Normal; make-up techniques to help women deal with side effects of cancer treatments; 309-451-8500.

New Brother New Sister Day Camp; 6 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 2, Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, Normal; \$15; 800-323-8622.

Four-session Prepared Childbirth; 6:30 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 2, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's Business Conference Center, Bloomington; \$40; 309-665-4704.

Breastfeeding Basics; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's Business Conference Center, Bloomington; \$15; 309-665-4704.

Four-session Prepared Childbirth; 6 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 3, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's Business Conference Center, Bloomington; \$40; 309-665-4704.

Eat Like a Mediterranean; noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 4, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington; \$15; 309-661-5151.

Health Care Provider CPR; 6 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 4, Advocate BroMenn Community Wellness Center, Normal; \$30; 800-323-8622.

Five Money Questions for Women; 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Feb. 5, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's Center for Healthy Lifestyles, Bloomington; free; 309-661-5151.

Meals for a Healthy Heart; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 5, McLean County Extension Office, Bloomington; food demonstrations, tastings, activities; presenter, Jenna Smith, University of Illinois Extension nutrition and wellness educator; \$10; 309-663-8306.

Central Illinois Community Blood Center drive

Call 866-GIVE-BLD for an appointment: **Thursday;** 3 to 7 p.m., Hopedale Medical Complex, Hopedale.

Red Cross blood drives

Call 800-733-2767 for an appointment:

Monday; 1:30 to 6:15 p.m., Red Cross chapter house, Bloomington.

Tuesday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Illinois State University's Bowling & Billiards Center, Normal, and noon to 6 p.m., Westview Elementary School, Fairbury.

Wednesday; 10:30 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m., VFW Hall, Pontiac; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., ISU's Bowling & Billiards Center, Normal;

and noon to 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Fairbury.

Thursday; noon to 6 p.m., ISU's Watterson Towers, Normal.

Jan. 31; 7:30 to 11:30 a.m., Red Cross chapter house, Bloomington; 8 a.m. to noon, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Normal; and 8 a.m. to noon, St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington.

New Kids say new bands can learn from them

John Carucci
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — New Kids on the Block are ready to take new boy bands on the block to school.

The Boston-based veteran group, which announced a summer tour with TLC and Nelly this week, said contemporary

boy bands should check out their live concerts to learn from the experts.

"As far as boy bands, you know, we dance, we perform. I mean, I hate to sound like an old fogey, but these kids don't know what they're missing nowadays because we got to sing and dance for our supper, you know what I mean, and we love to do

that," Joey McIntyre, 42, said in an interview at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"So maybe a few kids could come to the show and see how it's done."

The Main Event tour kicks off May 1 in Las Vegas. Tickets go on sale Jan. 31.

The 42-date tour wraps July 2 in Buffalo, N.Y.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Our ads are moving to Thursday!
Look for them in the GO! Section starting Feb. 5th!

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