



Fondation canadienne de la fibrose kystique
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

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A NEW HOPE SURVIVAL:

FIRST DOUBLE-LUNG TRANSPLANT ON A CYSTIC FIBROSIS
PATIENT IN QUEBEC

Montreal, Thursday, October 5th, 1989 -- The Quebec Cystic Fibrosis Association and Dr Hani Shennib, Cardiothoracic surgeon of the Montreal General Hospital announced today the first successful double-lung transplant on a Cystic Fibrosis patient in Quebec.

Dr Hani Shennib and Dr Pierre Ernst, respirologist, along with the MGH surgical team began the delicate operation on Friday, September 22nd at two o'clock in the morning. Approximately seven hours later, the young Brigitte Laflamme was breathing thanks to her donor's lungs, a 38 year old man, recently deceased at the MGH. "The proximity of the donor, the speed at which we were able to proceed with the surgery as well as the patient's general health were all contributing factors to the success of this difficult and high technology organ transplant", explained Dr Shennib.

Only 18 years old, Miss Laflamme is the youngest CF patient ever to undergo this type of transplant in Canada. "We are extremely pleased and encouraged by Brigitte's rapid recovery", said Dr André Lamarre, Director of Ste-Justine's Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Clinic and the patient's personal physician. "The fact that she was breathing on her own only 24 hours after the surgery and the fact that she was able to leave the intensive care unit within 3 days lead us to believe that our patient is well on her way to a complete recovery."

Donnez le souffle de vie. Combattez la fibrose kystique.
Give the breath of life. Fight cystic fibrosis.

"Little over a month ago, the discovery of the Cystic Fibrosis gene filled us with a renewed sense of hope", stated Denis Mouton, President of the Quebec Cystic Fibrosis Association. "This successful double-lung transplant on such a young CF patient, gives all of us parents and patients alike, a new hope for survival."

On the other hand, L'Association des intermédiaires en assurances de personnes du Québec (AIAPQ) , who supports several research projects and especially the double-lung transplants, are very pleased to associate themselves with this further step towards the final victory over CF. L'AIAPQ therefore reiterates its' direct support to the fight against CF and encourages all underwriters to continue their efforts to the cause.

In conclusion, Denis Mouton, father of two children stricken with CF, insisted on thanking the doctors, their surgical team and the Montreal General Hospital for their precious collaboration and congratulated them on the success of this important step which has opened the road to a more hopeful life for all those stricken with CF. Moreover, Mr Mouton underlined the importance of a continued complicity on the part of the general public as well as the numerous volunteers and businesses who contribute regularly to the fight against Cystic Fibrosis.

SOURCE: Denise Ménard
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