

Chile girl improving after separation twin

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In this photo taken on Wednesday Dec. 14, 2011 and released by Chile's Health Ministry on Monday Dec. 19, Maria Paz Paredes Navarrete, one of two conjoined twins, is seen after a Tuesday surgery to separate her from her sister Maria Jose at Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital in Santiago, Chile. Maria Paz continues in stable condition but her sister Maria Jose died on Sunday Dec. 18 after suffering general organ failure, according to director of Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital. The twins were born in the town of Loncoche, about 470 miles (760 kilometers) south of the capital of Santiago, and have spent their entire lives under hospital care. (AP Photo/David Lillo, Chile's Health Ministry)

(AP) -- Doctors in Chile are optimistic about the survival of a 10-month-old girl who was separated from a conjoined twin who died following the surgery.

Little Maria Paz awoke for the first time since the operation nearly a week ago, and Dr. Carlos Acuna calls that "an excellent sign." He says she's been successfully switched to a common [respirator](#) and her condition is favorable.

Monday's good news comes only hours after her [twin Maria Jose died](#) from general [organ failure](#) following last week's marathon surgery.

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