

Surgery begins to separate infant conjoined twins in Texas

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This Feb. 10, 2016 photo provided by Driscoll Children's Hospital shows conjoined twin sisters Scarlett, left, and Ximena Hernandez-Torres at Dirscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. Doctors in Texas will attempt to separate the two 10-month-old sisters born conjoined below the waist. The girls share a colon and bladders that will be reconstructed. Their identical triplet sister, Catalina, was born without serious health issues. (Joshua Thelin/Driscoll Children's Hospital via AP)

Surgery has started in Texas to separate two 10-month-old sisters born conjoined below the waist.

Jeff Salzgeber, a spokesman for Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, said the multi-hour operation began Tuesday morning.

Ximena (huh-MEE-nuh) and Scarlett Hernandez-Torres share a colon and bladders that will be reconstructed. Their identical triplet sister, Catalina, was born without serious [health issues](#).

The [hospital staff](#) has cared for the conjoined girls since they were transferred to the facility hours after birth.

Dr. Haroon Patel says a team of specialists has been working for months to prepare for the surgery, which could last 12 to 18 hours.

A hospital statement says doctors have a [positive outlook](#) for the children's recovery. The girls will require additional surgeries as they grow.

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