

## Boy's tumour removed - without a scar

September 02, 2009

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The Canadian Press

MONTREAL—In what surgeons believe could be a Canadian medical first, a toddler had a tumour removed from his face using a procedure that allows him to avoid living the rest of his life with an unsightly scar.

Doctors say the endoscopic technique employed on the cherub-cheeked

Montreal baby could drastically change the way tumours are removed and leave little scarring.

Doctors and surgeons at Montreal Children's Hospital said 18-month-old Jayden Cambridge had a blueberry-sized tumour removed last week, with excellent results.

Dr. Sherif Emil, director of pediatric general surgery at the hospital, proposed the procedure for Jayden to avoid the prospect of a 2.5-centimetre-long scar across his forehead and deep discoloration on his skin.

"In the back of my mind, it was a procedure looking for a patient," said Emil, who had seen the endoscopic technique performed in the United States.

"In this child, there was no way to make an incision that would not be obvious, so he was the perfect candidate for it."

Emil found Jayden had a congenital tumour believed to be a dermoid cyst – a benign tumour, but one that has to be removed nonetheless because of the risk of rupture as the child grows older.

Surgeons entered through the boy's scalp, just above his hairline, to reach the tumour located in the middle of his forehead.



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Jayden Cambridge, 18 months, seen with his mother, Tanya Comeau, Sept. 1, 2009, had a blueberry-sized cyst on his forehead removed a week earlier.

The tumour proved difficult to find as doctors began probing with the camera. It had become encased in bone. But once found, it was plucked out easily.

Emil said that, until now, most surgeons would have achieved the feat by cutting through the skin and muscle above the tumour. "I didn't want to take a chance Jayden would go through the rest of his life with a mark on his face," Emil said.

Dr. Nabil Fanous, a plastic surgeon and associate professor of facial plastic surgery and head and neck surgery at McGill University and Université de Sherbrooke, said the procedure is fairly common on adults, but not for tumour removal.

"I think any kid coming now will have this procedure and once doctors have seen it once, twice, three times, it'll become a common procedure," Fanous said.

Jayden was discharged about an hour after surgery with just a tiny scar that will be hidden by his hairline and shock of black hair.