

Iowa HAS HEART



BERGETTA BEARDSLEY

Endocarditis Diagnosis

In December 2012, Bergetta felt like she was getting sick with a virus or flu. She went to the doctor was put on an antibiotic. She felt better for a bit, but then recurring fevers occurred and she was prescribed different antibiotics. Fevers continued along with lower energy and then red spots started to appear on her legs. Her primary care physician referred her to an infectious disease team. In February 2013 as a result of blood tests, it was determined she had endocarditis - a life threatening inflammation of the inner lining of the heart's chambers and valves. She was hospitalized several times due to high fever. She administered daily self-induced transfusions of high dose antibiotics through a picc line, both at home and/or at work. She was hopeful the antibiotics would take care of everything, but the disease attached to her mitral valve where it started a growth that had the potential to explode and enter her bloodstream and could cause a stroke and/or cardiac arrest. She went through all of this while still working and being a busy mom of three.

In April 2013 she had a mitral valve transplant during open heart surgery, followed by pacemaker. As a follow up to her surgery she went through cardiac rehabilitation. She now goes in annually for an echo, monthly for INR blood test (measures the time for the blood to clot), and must be on Warfarin the rest of her life. She is feeling good and is very blessed!