

Compassionate Care

Kelly Forshey had a perfectly normal pregnancy and an uneventful delivery at **O'Bleness Memorial Hospital's Birth Center** for her first baby. Her physicians, Kathleen M. Bertuna, DO, and Michael Clark, DO, from **River Rose Obstetrics and Gynecology**, did not expect any complications with her second pregnancy. A routine ultrasound and other tests showed no expected problems for the 27-year-old Kelly right up to her almost full-term delivery date on August 11. "My pregnancy was smooth sailing," Kelly said. "My labor and delivery were fine. But after my little boy was born, the doctors saw something wasn't right. For me it was a whirlwind after that. Dr. Clark and Dr. Bertuna said, 'We'll need to take you to the operating room.'"



Kelly and Grayden Forshey

Kelly had a condition known as placenta accreta. Sometimes the placenta attaches too deeply, making it difficult to separate easily from the uterine wall. Placenta accreta can cause bleeding and premature delivery, but neither complication occurred with Kelly's pregnancy. Severe hemorrhaging during attempts to detach the placenta after birth can be life threatening for the mother, and the uterus or other organs can be damaged. Hysterectomy often is necessary.

Bertuna and Clark worked as a team. "We took the precaution of moving Kelly downstairs to the **O'Bleness Surgery Department**," Bertuna said. "Kelly had lost quite a lot of blood, so she received transfusions. When we were just minutes from performing a hysterectomy, the placenta came off."

Bertuna praised George Chen, MD, an **O'Bleness anesthesiologist**, for his skill in administering an epidural to Kelly before her delivery.

"We didn't need to give Kelly general anesthesia because Dr. Chen did such a great job with her epidural," Bertuna said. "Both Kelly and her husband were very calm in a difficult situation."

"Everyone was so nice," Kelly said. "They assured me everything would work out fine and I was confident in everyone's skills. Dr. Clark says I have healed fine."