



Learn in this story how the first Cuban child who suffered from the postcovid-19 multisystemic inflammatory syndrome was saved.

Diago Damián Cruz Acosta throws his orange ball up and waits for it with open arms, as the embankments of San Miguel de Azopardo await the sunset at sunset, he is not bothered by the presence of strangers in the room, nor by the attentive recorder to the responses of Naylén Acosta Zamora, his mother. Although from time to time he interrupts the game to examine everything in silence.

On November 10 last he turned 3 years old. His agility can be appreciated as he runs after the ball from one side to the other, or hugs his cloth horse in an imaginary gallop of seconds, perhaps because he is a "hyperactive" child, his mother immediately went to the office before that sudden fever that did not it gave way and the diarrheal picture that sapped the little boy's energies.

“If it had not been for the decision of the family doctor and the speed with which he was transferred to the Eliseo Noel Camaño provincial pediatric hospital , the worst would have happened. It was somewhat aggressive, when we arrived he was already anemic and dehydrated. He went straight to intensive care ”.

There, after a process of analysis, health professionals determined Diago's condition : the only Cuban case of pediatric age reported with post-covid-19 multisystemic inflammatory syndrome , Dr. Amauri Lázaro Noda Albelo , a second-degree specialist in Pediatrics, explains that studies showed the presence of antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This means that in recent weeks he was infected with apparently no clinical symptoms.

“It is a disease that appeared after the pandemic and they are related. It is complex and is still under study. The patient has a high probability of dying if we do not diagnose it in time. Hence the importance of assuming appropriate behavior, which consists of modulating the inflammatory response because it is an aggression of the organism against itself.

“As for Diago , we witnessed something similar to a tornado: hematological affectations, anemia, digestive disorders, renal, cardiovascular and respiratory failure (for which he had mechanical ventilation). He stayed in the institution for more than a month, ”for Naylén it is not easy to remember without crying drowning out her words. “There were times when his health got so bad that we expected the worst. The only thing that gave us encouragement was the constant concern of the medical staff. My son came to call them uncles and aunts ”.

According to Noda Albelo , also a specialist in Clinical Immunology, “the multidisciplinary team struggled until the patient came out of

the process healthy. He underwent a treatment with the drugs Intacglobin and Methylprednisolone , of national origin. In addition, each failure of the organism was independently managed and even experts from the William Soler Cardiocenter provided a Cuban drug to increase the strength of the heart, because it was very damaged.

Contemplating the images that illustrate the gravity of the little one returns the anguish of those hours. His mother tells us that "he had some bedsores and lost his walk due to the long time in bed. Seeing him get up, take his first steps, speak with force, it was as if he had been born again ".

Dr. Amauri points out that he is now receiving follow-up in the multidisciplinary postcovid-19 infectology clinic, where the more than 190 minors who were positive for SARS-CoV-2 are treated. He assures that he remains without sequelae and the tests confirm that everything is going well.

"It is important to clarify that the syndrome described behaves in a similar way to Kawasaki disease, the first cause of heart disease acquired in childhood. If this disease has epidemiological or serological links with an infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, then it is considered a multisystemic inflammatory syndrome ".

"In Cuba there is an increase in positive cases for the coronavirus in pediatric ages and there is the possibility of developing complications. Parents must become aware of the danger of the new coronavirus. The social isolation, the use of the nasobuco, the washing of the hands, are the most effective vaccine to avoid the contagion ", warns the doctor.

A daily Naylén is devoted entirely to the small and older brother. You know how essential careful preparation of medications and diet is. Sometimes fear reaches her, as two kilometers separate San Miguel from the nearest highway, and several from the town of Pedro Betancourt. However, tranquility returns to the soul after seeing him score a goal and jump happily. "I think that after his recovery he is even more active," he confesses.

Diago raises his little hand to say goodbye. As we cross the embankment, his smile and the words published by the director of the medical center, José Hernández Hernández , come to our memory : "the warriors of this pediatric hospital in Matanzas fought hard for you (...) When you grow up you will be able to say that you are alive because you were born in Cuba, where the health of everyone, and especially that of children, is a priority ".

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(By Lianet Fundora Armas and Anet Martínez Suárez)