



75th Anniversary of 'blue baby' surgery

News

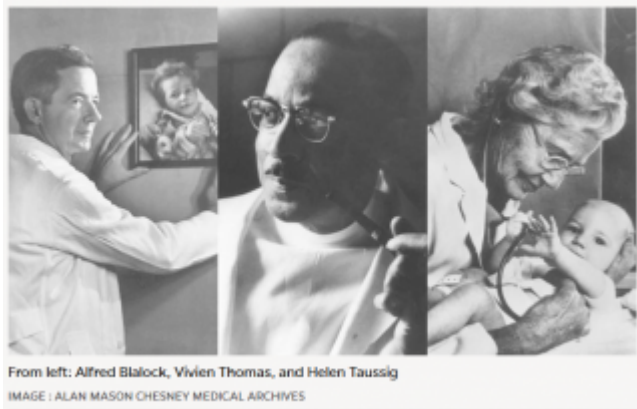
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Today we celebrate 75 years since the first "blue baby" surgery by Alfred Blalock, with Helen Taussig and Vivien Thomas on November 29, 1944.



The child was 15-month-old, Eileen Saxon, the surgery was a success and she went home after 3 months. Unfortunately her cyanotic episodes returned and 2 days before her 2nd birthday, she underwent another operation, she passed away 5 days later.

Now known as the BT or BTT shunt, the surgery was a success and really the start of [#CHD](#) surgery. We have come a long way since then, with an almost 95% survival rate into adulthood now.

Between 1947 and 1953 Blalock and Taussig were nominated for Nobel Prizes in either Physiology or Medicine. They later received the Lasker Award in 1954. Unfortunately, Thomas' contribution wasn't recognized until much later, the story being made into an excellent feature film by HBO called 'Something the Lord Made'.

To read today's article celebrating the 75 year anniversary, click [here](#)

To visit the Blue Baby Operation Exhibit click [here](#)

To learn more about the HBO movie 'Something the Lord Made' click on the link [Something_the_Lord_Made](#) To watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/fE92WECvB8Q>

Images and information from The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Thanks to Dr. Fred Wu for his great historical recap on Twitter <https://twitter.com/FredWuMD/status/1068216748875362304>

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