



**Banner Good Samaritan**  
Medical Center



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## High-risk Obstetrics

Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center is a nationally known hospital for high-risk obstetrics, the care of mothers and fetuses deemed at-risk for health complications during pregnancy and birth. Banner Good Samaritan is certified as a Level III Perinatal Center by the Arizona Perinatal Trust, and works in partnership with Phoenix Children's Hospital and its Level III intensive care nursery (ICN). The ICN is located inside Banner Good Samaritan, adjacent to the Labor & Delivery surgical area.

Women come to Banner Good Samaritan from around the country and, in some cases, the world to receive care from the highly experienced and skilled perinatologists (a doctor who specializes in high risk obstetrics) of Phoenix Perinatal Associates, and the equally impressive staff of nurses and other health professionals.

Many women who are high risk obstetric patients are admitted to the hospital weeks prior to birth. These women are cared for on the fifth floor of the Main Tower in the Antepartum unit. The staff of this unit is highly experienced in caring for their high risk patients, and work closely with expecting mothers and their families to facilitate a maximum yet appropriate level of family involvement on the units.

The care of high risk mothers at Banner Good Samaritan, particularly the birth of high order multiples, has been well-documented in television news shows such as *48 Hours* on CBS, *Maternity Ward* on TLC, and the Discovery Health's *Special Delivery* and *Birth Day*.



*Rebecca and Robert Wilson became the parents of five healthy babies - (from left) Joshua Abram, Madison Nicole, Dillon Thomas, Dalton Robert, and Zachary John - in July 2003. Banner Good Samaritan's High-risk Obstetrics staff monitored Rebecca's and the babies' conditions from her arrival through their stay at the hospital. The perinatal care was vital in the children's healthy births, while their neonatal care allowed the family to leave the hospital just three weeks later. To read more about the Wilsons, please read the In Focus story on the back.*

### Fetal therapy

Banner Good Samaritan is Arizona's only hospital providing highly complex in-utero therapies to address fetal disorders. Our physicians perform many hundreds of these minimally-invasive procedures annually, including:

- Fetal transfusion
- Shunts
- Umbilical cord occlusions

*Our Mission:*

*We exist to make a difference in people's lives through excellent patient care.*

## High-risk Obstetrics

### High order multiples

Banner Good Samaritan is known to have delivered more high order multiples - triplets, quadruplets and quintuplets - than any hospital in the world. At the end of 2003, 66 sets of quadruplets had been born at Banner Good Samaritan. In 2003 alone, 33 sets of triplets, five sets of quadruplets and two sets of quintuplets were born here.

### Critical care for expecting mothers

Women who are pregnant and who have serious health disorders, are in need of specialized care to

ensure the optimal outcome for the birth. Patients suffering from the following disorders are commonly referred to Banner Good Samaritan:

- Stroke
- Heart failure
- Respiratory distress

### General high risk care

- Diabetes
- Genetic evaluation
- Blood conservation medicine
- Cord banking

## In Focus

### *Oh Baby, Baby, Baby, Baby, Baby!*

When Pennsylvania couple Rebecca and Robert Wilson discovered they would become the parents of quintuplets, their doctor directed them to Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center and perinatologist John Elliott, M.D. Here, the Wilsons received proven expertise in the care of mothers expecting high-order multiples and the delivery of those babies.

On July 24, 2003, between 10:15 a.m. and 10:23 a.m., that advice paid off when the Wilsons counted 50 toes and 50 fingers moments after the birth of their quintuplets. Under Dr. Elliott's care, the babies were born after a 34-week, 3-day gestation. The average pregnancy for quadruplets at Banner Good Samaritan is 32 weeks, at least 2½ weeks beyond the national average of 29½ weeks (38 to 40 weeks is considered full-term in a singleton pregnancy).

Rebecca and Robert became the parents of four baby boys and one baby girl: Joshua Abram; 5 lbs, 1.6 oz; 10:15 a.m.; Madison Nicole; 3 lbs, 12 oz; 10:18 a.m.; Dillon Thomas; 4 lbs, 7 oz; 10:20 a.m.; Dalton Robert; 4 lbs, 3.2 oz; 10:22 a.m.; and Zachary John; 3 lbs, 9.4 oz; 10:23 a.m. (*Note: Dillon Thomas and Dalton Robert are identical twins.*) The total birthweight of 21 lbs, 1.2 oz is believed to be a U.S. record for quintuplets, Dr. Elliott said.

Dr. Elliott, medical director of Maternal/Fetal Medicine at Banner Good Samaritan, and his colleagues at Phoenix Perinatal Associates and the nursing staffs at Banner Good Samaritan and Phoenix Children's Hospital have developed a national reputation for their care and management of women delivering high-order multiples.

Starting with initial care from a qualified perinatologist specializing in high-risk obstetrics and continuing through bed rest on the hospital's obstetrical unit, every nuance of the mother's and children's condition is monitored and treated. "These mothers exhibit labor symptoms early into the pregnancy, often before the babies are viable," Dr. Elliott said. "We use a variety of techniques, medications and therapies to help keep the babies in the womb until they are ready to be born.

"Additionally, we can recognize and treat several pre-term labor problems, such as gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia. Only when the babies are ready to be born, will we take mom to the delivery room."

Following delivery at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, all five babies were cared for at Phoenix Children's Hospital's Intensive Care Nursery, located inside Banner Good Samaritan. Observation and care in the nursery is typical in cases of high-order multiple births.

The care the children received in the womb and during their first days was instrumental to their health. Remarkably, all five Wilson quints were ready to go home just three weeks after their birth.