

# Mahria

“The nurses at Valley Children’s gave me the strength to hold my fragile little girl and they have been our greatest supporters every step of the way. I will forever be thankful for them.”

– Manuel, Mahria’s dad

Michelle saw her healthy baby during a 20-week scan in February 2023 that carried the excitement as she learned she was expecting a baby girl. While her little girl continued to show all signs of good health, Michelle’s doctor found that her cervix had thinned to a level that was equitable to someone at full term.

“This visit changed my life forever as I learned that an early labor would be inevitable,” explained Michelle. “I wasn’t worried about me, I was worried about my daughter because a delivery this early meant that it was unlikely she would make it. As her mom, I was committed to doing anything because I had to give my daughter a fighting chance.”

Mahria was born on March 26 at 25.5 weeks gestation by emergency C-section. She weighed 1.6 pounds and was immediately transported to Valley Children’s.

Mahria had been placed in an isolette to keep her safe and warm until her little body could regulate her body temperature by itself. She required a breathing tube for some time, but as she continued to grow and progress,



she would learn how to control her body temperature, breathe and regulate her blood pressure all on her own.

“Walking out of the hospital without my daughter was the hardest thing in life because I never imagined there would be so many barriers between me and my baby – it was my health, the distance, double doors into a NICU, a code and then an isolette – but when I was finally able to reconnect with Mahria, I felt great peace and gratitude knowing and seeing that she had such great care,” said Michelle. “For our entire stay, the care at Valley Children’s went beyond Mahria and extended to our entire family.”

After 81 days in the NICU, Mahria was healthy and ready to go home.

On September 26, Mahria celebrated her half-month birthday with her family, including Maharazi, who makes her laugh and smile all the time. Mahria loves the sound of her big sister’s voice, joining in on family discussions with her sweet babbling words and sucking on her little fingers.

“It is with an extremely full heart and all the gratitude in the world, that I can say my daughter is well,” said Michelle. “The nursing staff at Valley Children’s gave us what no one else could: the family we are today, which is more than I could have ever hoped and dreamed for.”