



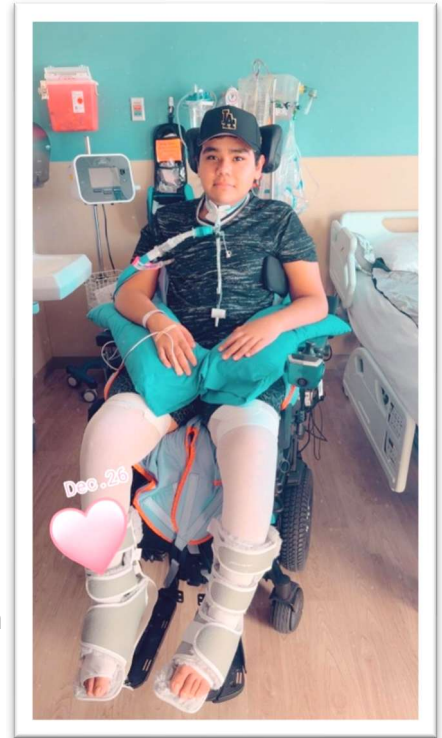
Child's Name: Rodrigo Galindo

Age: 15 years old

Hometown: Bethany, OK

Diagnosis: Spinal Cord Stroke

Background: Rodrigo Galindo was a happy, healthy 15-year-old boy until October 12, 2025, when he began experiencing sudden numbness in his limbs. Within moments, he collapsed and had to be rushed to OU Children's Hospital. On the way to the hospital, Rodrigo's oxygen levels began to drop. Upon arrival, his condition continued to deteriorate, requiring intubation. His sudden decline left doctors, nurses, and his family stunned. He underwent extensive testing, including evaluations for infections and multiple MRIs—some lasting hours—but no definitive diagnosis could be found. As his lungs are unable to function on their own, doctors placed a tracheostomy tube to assist his breathing. The medical team suspects Rodrigo may have experienced a spinal cord stroke and may never move or breathe independently again. He is currently at Bethany Children's Hospital, where he has been receiving intensive therapies. Encouragingly, he has regained some small movement in his fingers but is wheelchair dependent and requires 24/7 comprehensive medical care and support. At this time Rodrigo's family cannot afford the specialized equipment needed for him to return home. Safe discharge planning also remains a significant challenge. The family is seeking a new residence that is handicap accessible.



What stands out most about Rodrigo is his unwavering positivity and infectious smile. He is surrounded by an incredible support system in his family. Rodrigo loves music and video games, and he has even learned to use a special mouth-controlled adapter to play. His resilience and uplifting spirit are a shining light to those around him. In fact, his positive attitude has been so inspiring that doctors and nurses at Bethany Children's have asked him to encourage and uplift other patients. The VHR family is honored to come alongside Rodrigo and his loved ones in helping make that possible and bringing him home where he belongs.

Information: Spinal cord infarction (SCI) is exceedingly rare, but dangerous. They constitute roughly .3% - 1% of all strokes. Many cases (up to 60%) have an unknown etiology and cannot be linked to a specific cause. Spinal cord infarction involves a blockage of blood supply to the spinal cord. Blockage can occur in the spinal cord itself or in the arteries that supply blood to the area. Recent incidence statistics in Oklahoma are not widely publicized, but data indicates they are a rare cause of injury and cause acute paralysis, often requiring long-term care. Prognosis for spinal cord infarction varies; while some may walk independently again, many face permanent deficits. Symptoms generally develop quickly, usually within about 12 hours. Some common symptoms may include sharp burning back pain, loss of sensation of pain & temperature, weakness in legs, loss of bladder control, or paralysis.

Illness Ribbon Color: Lime Green

Awareness Month: September

