

Lao medics carry out successful cataract surgery on young brothers



The two boys, aged four and two, after surgery.

A medical team from Oudomxay province, in collaboration with the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation ophthalmology team working in May and Khua districts of Phongsaly province, has successfully removed congenital cataracts from two young brothers.

The boys, aged four and two, are now enjoying clear vision.

Head of the team from Oudomxay provincial Hospital, an ophthalmologist named Dr. Phetsamone Indara, said congenital bilateral cataracts are clouding of the lens in both eyes and the condition is present at birth. Although it's not rare for babies to be born with cataracts, it is always a difficult condition to treat.

Cases of congenital bilateral cataract in brothers are very rare. Congenital cataracts occur in newborn babies for many reasons that can include inherited tendencies, intrauterine infection, metabolic problems, diabetes, trauma, inflammation, or drug reactions.

The two brothers, Porteui and Porjeu, were born to an Akha farming family living

in a remote village in May district, Phongsaly province. Their parents said they noticed the boys were unable to focus on objects properly from the age of five months and both their eyes had clouded lenses.

Without a sight saving operation to remove the cataracts, the boys could have been blind for life.

The boys were examined and diagnosed with congenital bilateral cataract by the Oudomxay team, which provided cataract surgery and refractive services in collaboration with the Lao

Rehabilitation Foundation ophthalmology team in May and Khua districts during the fourth week of May and the first week of June.

The boys were referred to Oudomxay provincial hospital for cataract surgery, which was performed on June 7 by Dr. Phetsamone Indara.

The surgery was successful and restored the sight of both boys so they can now live life as normal.

The Lao Rehabilitation Foundation provided all the necessary support for the surgery.