

## Miracle Mom

The birth of a child is supposed to be a time filled with joy.

But for the family of Hope Lindholm that joy quickly turned into terror.

Hope suffered a rare and life-threatening complication during childbirth and doctors were sure she wasn't going to live. But Hope had other plans.

In fact, what happened after her delivery stunned even veteran doctors here in the Twin Cities.

And now, Hope has a new nickname -- Miracle Mom!!

In Monday's KARE 11 Extra reporter Ellen Kolodziej introduced us to the Miracle mom. The following is based on her report.

The birth of a child is normally one of the most joyous moments of life. And Hope Lindholm may look like your average mom, but what happened to this Twin Cities woman is nothing short of miraculous. One of life's most joyous events, put her life in jeopardy and quickly turned emotions into fear and worry. KARE-11's Ellen Kolodziej tells us why doctors are calling her a miracle mom. Hope Lindholm not only amazed her loved ones -- but still has doctor's shaking their heads in disbelief.

The Lindholm family always enjoys the good times together. But now that mom's back, everything seems so much sweeter. Seven weeks ago, Tim Lindholm almost lost his wife. Not once, but twice.

"I just love having my wife, we do everything together and I can't imagine life without her, it's hard," says Tim.

"It's an almost unbelievable story that you can't quite comprehend that you're a part of," says survivor Hope Lindholm.

Doctors expected some complications when Hope Lindholm came into the hospital to deliver her fourth child. No one, though, was prepared for what happened.

"I don't expect I'll ever see a case like hers again in my career," said Hennepin County Medical Center's Physician Dr. Sari Witzke. "I hope I never see a case like hers again in my career."

During a C-section, Hope's heart stopped. A heart attack caused by a rare blood condition called Amniotic Fluid Embolism.

"The baby came out pretty simultaneously with that, and then the baby was born and they brought her out of course you're really happy about that," said Tim, "but oh my goodness how do you be happy about that when you know, the baby's mom's in there and, you don't know. Yeah, that's tough you know. You're best friend's in there and that was tough, and she probably didn't even know."

The anesthesiologists managed to revive Hope. But 80 percent of women in this situation, either die within an hour, or suffer long-term brain damage. Doctors pumped hope with 100 units of blood. She was in bad shape and no one knew whether she'd make it.

"It was really emotional for me and I know everyone involved," said Dr. Witzke.

Then, on top of all that, doctors discovered 'another' problem. A six-inch blood clot, near her lung...that could also kill her.

"I mean, highly unlikely and again I don't even know if there are case reports of women that have had a, an Amniotic Fluid Embolism and b, a Massive Pulmonary Embolism during her recovery so I think the chances of the two happening simultaneously are quite unlikely," Dr. Witzke explains.

"So there was just, hours there, lots of time there, when we just thought it was over, but she kept hanging in there," says Tim.

Somehow, that second blood clot just went away and Hope survived a second brush with death.

"It was a miracle I don't know of any other way to describe it, the doctors did a really good job," says Tim. "I think HCMC is an excellent hospital and she needed a little more help than that, she needed a little help from God to keep her alive."

"You just don't realize how far I've come because I think it's hard for me to know how far I've come," said Hope, "because those were the days when I didn't know anything about it."

In a letter to HCMC, Tim expresses just how much their efforts meant to his family.

"We cannot thank you enough for the blessing of having healed Hope so she can be with us and our kids can have a mom and we just everyday want to be thankful for that," he says.

Now the Lindholm's look at every day with mom and little Hope as a special gift.

"You have to be thankful for everyday of your life because you don't know what can happen," says Hope. "It's a pretty strong lesson there."

"You know the day she came home and I got to take her you know, take her in the truck and take her home it was like, wow...that was a great day," Tim remembers. For this family, a great day, every day. Time together, that the Lindholms will never take for granted again.

"And I just think it's so wonderful," says Tim, "so wonderful to have her back and with us and for the kids to have their real mom oh, I don't have words to express it."

Doctors say there's no way to predict or prevent what happened to Hope Lindholm. She's still undergoing physical therapy to get her strength back, but she has no brain damage. Doctors say she should make a full recovery.