

## Conjoined twins to be separated

by UPI

SALT LAKE CITY -- Twin 7-month-old girls whose older sister says they are "stuck at the butt" are to be separated soon at a Utah hospital.

Anna Clark, the mother of Allyson and Avery, said her family is lucky because the twins do not share major organs or large blood vessels, The Salt Lake Tribune said. Even so, separating the conjoined twins will be a five-hour operation at Primary Children's Medical Center, the Salt Lake City newspaper said.

The twins are already in the hospital in skin expanders, while the surgery is scheduled in two weeks.

Kerry Clark, an F-16 crew chief, sought a transfer to Hill Air Force Base in Utah because the hospital in Salt Lake City had previous experience with conjoined twins.

"To imagine them being two separate bodies is just a lot. It will be great," Anna Clark told reporters Monday.

The Clarks have three older daughters. The oldest, Rylee, 6, is the one who likes to tell strangers who do not realize Allyson and Avery are conjoined that they are "stuck at the butt." Rylee says she is looking forward to having two separate baby sisters.

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