

I love my new heart! Patient gives the thumbs-up after she receives donor organ dropped on floor by bungling medics

- Erika Hernandez, 28, leaves hospital following successful heart transplant
- Plastic-wrapped heart was dropped on city street minutes before surgery

By Lee Moran

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Two bungling medics caught on camera dropping a donor heart in a city street can breathe a sigh of relief - after it was successfully transplanted into the patient.

Erika Hernandez, 28, gave doctors the thumbs-up yesterday after she was wheeled out of Mexico City's La Raza Hospital following the life-saving surgery.

But if she looked slightly bewildered at the media scrum following her every move then she had every right to be - as she had not been told about her new organ's chequered past.



Chequered past: The donor heart pictured as it was dropped in the street outside the transplant centre in Mexico City

The two medics opened themselves up to widespread ridicule two weeks ago when footage emerged of the plastic-wrapped heart tumbling out of a cool box onto the street.

Film crews had followed the organ, of a man killed in a car crash, as it was flown 450km from Leon, Guanajuato, to the Centro Medico de Enfermedades Reumaticas in Mexico City.

But it was in the final few metres, moments after the helicopter landed, that the pair managed to topple the wheeled coolbox, spilling it onto the tarmac.

It had to be scooped up from the street, along with the ice and accompanying medical fluids. Only after it had been repacked in ice was it taken inside to the waiting transplant team.

An oblivious Erika, who was born with a congenital heart defect, thanked the donor's family and said: 'I have no words to express what I'm feeling right now.'

And, in a briefing with journalists, Dr Jaime Saldivar said it would be up to her family to tell her about the accident, which presumably with the media interest will have happened by now.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2091622/Thumbs-new-heart-Patients-joy-receives-donor-organ-dropped-floor-bungling-medics.html#ixzz1p5ALMT00>