Surviving septuplets wage battle for life

By SHEILA GRISSETT-WELSON

ORANGE, Calif. (UPI) - The six surviving Frustaci septuplets fought a critical battle for life Wednesday as an army of medical specialists worked to save the tiny infants from heart-related illness, immature lungs and jaundice.

The septuplets were born 12 weeks premature Tuesday to Patti Frustaci, a Riverside, Calif., English teacher who took the fertility drug Pergonal. The seven- and eight-pound babies were less than a pound, with jaundice.

The surviving infants, from pound. 13 ounces to 1 pound, were suffering a variety of life-threatening illnesses, all "predictable, but serious," said Dr. Carey Worcester, the neonatologist directing their care at the Children's Hospital of Orange County.

"We've had a very long night," Worcester said reporters 25 hours after the infants were born.

"Their conditions are still critical and may get slightly worse," he said. "We're making history here.

But there is hope. All six are active, moving their arms and legs. It is good for them to be so active. They're fighters, they're all fighters," he said.

"You should all understand that we don't have any statistics that we don't have any statistics on 22-week babies. A normal 20-week baby should weigh 6,000 B.T.U.'s.

"The babies developed jaundice, a yellowing of the skin caused by immature livers, and a lung-related problem present since birth is also slightly worse.

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Right-to-life group denies support for bombings

By SHEILA GRISSETT-WELSH

ORANGE, Calif. (UPI) - The Right-to-Life group denied support for bombings Wednesday and sparked a fire in a crowded restaurant Wednesday and sparked a fire in the eatery, injuring at least 60 lunch patrons and damaging nearby buildings, officials said.

The blast set the restaurant in Granada, whose famed Alhambra was the scene of last year's bombings, among other sites, and police cordoned off the area in response to complaints by residents of a strong gas odor.

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