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Reflective Practice: Guarded

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Highlights

A neonatologist describes working to forge trust with young parents to make decisions for their very sick baby, in the midst of civil unrest in Baltimore, Maryland.

Her lips were bluer than they should have been, even as our machines pumped oxygen and blood into her tiny body. Her mother's prenatal ultrasound had hinted that something would be wrong with this baby's heart; now that little Amaya was born, those fears were realized. It was unclear if surgery would be able to help her. Amaya's parents were young—children themselves really. Like many patients and families in our hospital, they lived in the surrounding neighborhood of boarded-up buildings and liquor stores, a neighborhood in stark contrast to the

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