

## Surgery helps a week old baby breathe easy

~ 7 day old baby girl born without a nasal passage successfully treated at Fortis Hospital, Vashi

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~ Suffering from 'Congenital Choanal Atresia', surgery was conducted to create nasal passage ~

**Vashi, Mumbai, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016:** The Guptas\* were a happy lot as they awaited the arrival of their firstborn closer to Holi. As the much awaited day arrived, Mrs. Gupta went into labor and she was rushed to Fortis Hospital, Vashi for delivery. Soon enough her contractions got stronger and before long their bundle of joy, a beautiful baby girl made her way into the world. The Gynecologist believed there was something amiss about the baby, as it turned out; the baby was born without nasal passage!

Hours into the birth, the doctors and the family began to see the gravity of the situation. Not only was the baby born without a nasal passage but the lack of the passage also meant that she couldn't breathe and feed. Babies do not know how to breathe from mouth for the first three months of their lives hence feeding meant asphyxiation for little baby. The baby was put on feeding tubes for interim period while the doctors at Fortis Hospital, Vashi, prepared for a corrective surgery.

It was found that Baby Gupta was suffering from Bilateral Congenital Choanal Atresia, a condition in which the infant's nasal airways are blocked by tissue/ bones. Choanal Atresia is a developmental failure of the nasal cavity and surgical repair is recommended in the first few weeks of birth; especially in bilateral Atresia since both the nasal passages are blocked. It was decided, with parent's consent, to go in for a surgery that will re-establish the nasal passage by using a one millimetre drill to remove the tissue/bones that were blocking the passage. Upon restoring the passage, doctors inserted nasal stents into the baby's nostrils. The stents keep the nostrils open so that the infant can breathe properly, allowing the nostrils to heal.

**Dr. K.P. Morwani, Consultant ENT Surgeon at Fortis Hospital, Vashi,** said, *"Research says one in 7000 live births, is a case like this witnessed. Studies report significantly more females than males affected by Choanal Atresia. This is the 1st case I have seen in my 40 years of career. It was a delicate procedure to be done on a baby as small as a one week old. We are thrilled with her progress and are looking forward to having her lead a normal life"*.

The stents placed in her nostrils will be removed after 3 months and the baby was able to breathe and feed normally from the next day of the surgery. The doctors do not expect any further complications or a second surgery for her. Baby Gupta should grow up to be a normal, healthy and happy girl who will continue to be a source of joy for her family.

The baby was under observation for 3 months and now the baby is doing well and feeding her mom's milk.

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The Guptas\* - name has changed on the request.

**For more information, please visit: [www.fortishealthfailureprogram.com](http://www.fortishealthfailureprogram.com)**

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