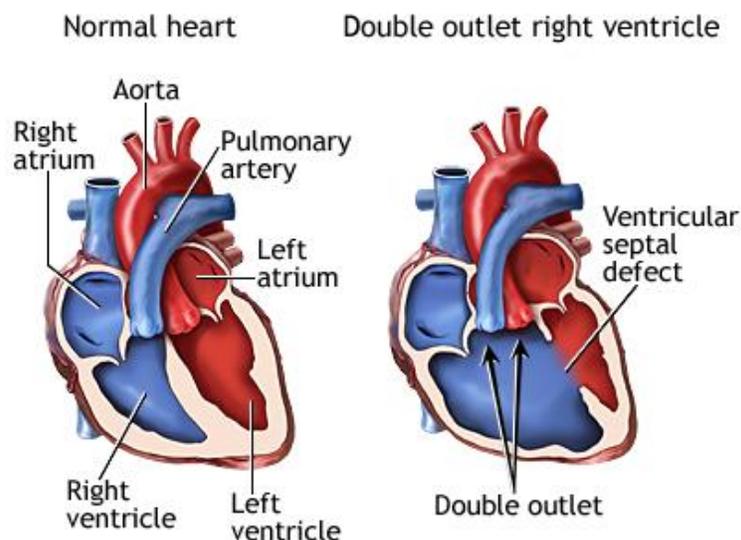


Miracle Baby Survives 3 Months on Ventilator, Lives to Tell Her Story

~ 4.5 month baby girl underwent complex Atrial Switch surgery and tunnel repair through VSD at Fortis Hospital, Mulund ~

~ Weaned off the ventilator on the third attempt ~

It was a joyful time at Nyachieo household as little angel Keliyah was welcomed into their loving arms. The baby weighing just about 600gms, did not breast feed, cried incessantly, never put on weight and seemed a little blue. Baby Keliyah contracted Pneumonia, which left her tiny body racked with raging fever that didn't seem to respond to any medication. Her mother, noticing these alarming symptoms, rushed her to a local hospital, where a team of cardiologists, who upon conducting ECHO test, diagnosed the condition as congenital Double Outlet Right Ventricle.



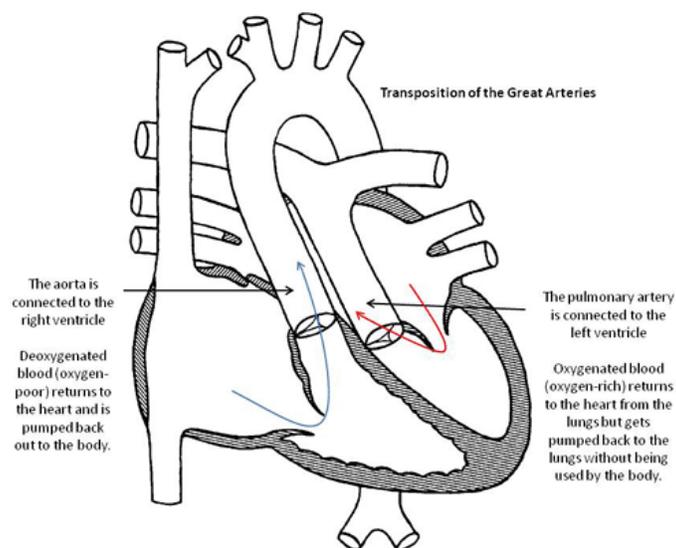
Double Outlet Right Ventricle (DORV) is a form of congenital heart disease where both of the great arteries connect (in whole or in part) to the right ventricle (RV). DORV occurs in multiple forms, with variability of great artery position and size, as well as of (VSD) Ventricular Septal Defect (the wall dividing the left and right ventricles of the heart) location. It can occur with or without transposition of the great arteries. The clinical manifestations were all a result of increased blood flow to the lungs. Increased lung pressure, by four times, was a result of the large hole in the heart.

Baby Keliyah's condition indicated that there was in addition a tissue which was obstructing the blood flow from the left ventricle. As a result, three challenges arose; (1)closing the large hole (2)taking care of tissue obstruction (3)high risk operation in view of infection. In matter of days she began to deteriorate and had to be put on ventilator much to the anguish of her family. The doctors tried to wean her off

the ventilator for two months in nearly 5 attempts but her body wouldn't cooperate and they had no choice but to keep her on life support. To make matters worse, baby Keliyah developed lung infection forcing the doctors to put her on antibiotics to keep her stable.

The local doctors advised the family to seek medical intervention at Fortis Hospital in Mumbai, India as they were confident that the doctors could help Baby Keliyah. Baby Keliyah strapped to her ventilator box along with her local Kenyan doctor and nurse were airlifted to India. Baby Keliyah was rushed to Fortis Hospital where further tests revealed she had additionally developed Blood Stream Sepsis (Sepsis develops when the chemicals the immune system releases into the bloodstream to fight an infection cause inflammation throughout the entire body) which had to be treated with more antibiotics. Little Keliyah was entrusted under the care of **Dr. Vijay Agarwal, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Fortis Mulund** who found that the only way to help her was to conduct a complex surgery named the 'Atrial Switch' and routing of the Aorta through VSD.

'Atrial Switch' is an open heart surgical procedure used to correct dextro-transposition of the great arteries (d-TGA) – the Aorta comes out of the Right ventricle and the Pulmonary artery comes out of the Left Ventricle. The procedure is ideally performed during the second week of life, before the left ventricle adjusts to the lower pulmonary pressure and is therefore unable to support the systemic circulation. Post taking the consent of the family, the surgery was done on Baby Keliyah, the surgery was complex as the child was tiny and had already undergone tremendous medical intervention in terms of ventilator connect and treatment for Pneumonia and blood sepsis.



Speaking on the same **Dr. Vijay Agrawal** said, *'The surgery is a delicate one but what made it even more complex is that the baby was on ventilator for over 3 months. The complexities involved were numerous;*



the tiny baby had endured life support, long air travel, infection and a major surgery all at the tender age of 3.5 months. The fight for life at that point wasn't just for the baby but the team as well, who endeavored to make sure that the damage was corrected, giving baby Kelia a second chance at life.'

Baby Kelia was weaned off the ventilator on the third attempt and is now able to breathe on her own. She is healing satisfactorily and will soon be well enough to go back home and grow up to be a beautiful and healthy little girl.

About Fortis Healthcare Limited:

Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. Currently, the company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 54 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and 314 diagnostic centres.

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