

### Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad Completes Eighth Gene Therapy for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

- *Eighth successful administration of Zolgensma for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad*
- *One of only a few hospitals in India and only centre in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with expertise and infrastructure to administer Zolgensma*

**Hyderabad, India; May 21, 2025** – Rainbow Children's Hospital, India's Leading Chain of Hospitals for paediatric, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Secunderabad facility successfully administered gene therapy to a child diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), marking the eighth such treatment carried out at the hospital, a significant milestone in paediatric healthcare. The therapy was administered under the supervision of Dr. Ramesh Konanki, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad.

As part of the treatment protocol, the child received Zolgensma, a one-time gene therapy specifically developed to treat Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) by replacing the defective SMN1 gene responsible for the condition. Administered through an adeno-associated viral vector, the therapy enables the production of the SMN protein, which is essential for survival of motor neurons and thus the muscle function. With a cost of approximately ₹14 crore per dose, Zolgensma is considered one of the most expensive therapies currently available worldwide.

SMA is a devastating genetic neuromuscular condition that affects about 1 in 10,000 children globally. In India alone, it is estimated that nearly 1000 children are currently battling this disease. Without timely intervention, many affected infants do not live beyond their second birthday, as the disease is relentlessly progressive.

Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad stands out as one of the few centers in India equipped with the infrastructure, multidisciplinary expertise, and expertise necessary to deliver such cutting-edge gene therapies. It is also the only hospital in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with experience and multi-disciplinary team required to administer Zolgensma. Following administration of the medicine, these children require continuous monitoring by the multi-disciplinary team and weekly laboratory investigations, to identify potential adverse events and early intervention.

**Mr. XX, father of the child**, shared his gratitude on this significant emotional milestone *"This treatment has given our family renewed hope. We are sincerely grateful to the entire team at*

# Media Note



*Rainbow Children's Hospital for their professionalism, support, and dedication throughout this process."*

This milestone reflects Rainbow Children's Hospital's continued focus on delivering high-quality, evidence-based care and expanding access to advanced therapies for children affected by rare and life-threatening conditions.

## **About Rainbow Children's Hospital:**

Established in 1999, Rainbow Children's Hospital (RCH) is a leading multi-specialty healthcare provider in India, specializing in paediatric, neonatal, and maternal care. With a network of 19 hospitals and 4 clinics across six cities including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam, the hospital offers comprehensive services through its brands: Rainbow Children's Hospital and BirthRight by Rainbow. Recognized as India's No. 1 hospital for child and women care by Outlook Health Awards 2023 and certified as a Great Place to Work, RCH is known for its clinical excellence, patient-centric care, and strong workplace culture. For more information, log on to: <https://www.rainbowhospitals.in/>

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