

Press Note

Rainbow Children's Hospital Started New-born and Paediatric Emergency Air transport services – Critically ill preterm baby with life threatening infection survived

Hyderabad, 9th September, 2021: It takes a lot to treat the little – rightly attested. Rainbow Children's Hospital launched Newborn and Pediatric Emergency Air transport services.

One such situation was to save the life of a critically ill preterm baby with life threatening infection. A doctor from RCH travelled in the Air Ambulance from Hyderabad to Raipur to bring the twin who had survived for treatment.

In Raipur, Chhattisgarh, a family was blessed with Twins on 31st July, 2021. However, they were born preterm – with the birth weight of 2.5kgs and 2.3kgs each. Added to this, they were effected with a critical and life threatening infection. Despite all the efforts from the doctors, this resulted in the death of the second twin.

Twin one also had a very severe life threatening infection since birth needing prolonged breathing support and medication for the low blood pressure. Baby was needing blood products transfusion every day, unable to clear the infection in spite of high level antibiotics. While this baby fighting with life, unfortunately other twin lost the battle and died with same infection. Parents and treating doctors, approached Rainbow Children's Hospital as a last resort and requested transfer of the baby from Raipur for advanced care and treatment to Quaternary NICU at rainbow Children's Hospital, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The NICU at Rainbow, Banjara has saved Southeast Asia's smallest baby weighing 375 gram and has dedicated Neonatal Emergency Transport services over last 20 years.

Raipur is 780 km away from Hyderabad and it takes more than 10 hours to come by road. Considering the critical status of neonate it was decided to transport the baby via AIR AMBULANCE. As the baby was on breathing support, our team of Rainbow Banjara Hills had a meeting with the air team from ICATT air ambulance services and discussed about the potential difficulties during the air transport, we did mock run of the special equipment we might need for the transport and took appropriate measures for the safe transport of the baby.

Our team started from Hyderabad to Raipur on 18th August, 2021 by the air ambulance that was equipped with a portable transport incubator which has inbuilt ventilator, monitors, ICU equipment and medications. After reaching the referral hospital we assessed the baby's clinical condition. We successfully shifted the baby on breathing support to our hospital in Hyderabad without any deterioration of the baby successfully.

Baby continued to receive critical care, antibiotics were adjusted, blood products given as per need, immune boosting proteins to improve continuously falling platelets were given. The baby improved gradually. Blood infection was cleared and baby started growing. Baby is now discharged after three week treatment.

This case has exemplified that air transport of sick newborn babies is very much feasible. Timely referral and escalation of the care can result in good outcome for critically ill babies. We thank the referring unit for early identification and initiation of transport. We also thank the family for having confidence in our team and giving us the opportunity. We thank ICATT Air ambulance team for partnering with us in this journey.

Rainbow children's hospital has dedicated transport service for critically ill sick babies and children for the last twenty years. Over the last five years our team has transported around 1900 newborn babies including 75 of less than one kilo babies and very sick babies from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and surrounding districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka safely.

Our vast experience and expertise in road transport has given us confidence and enabled us to start air transport service. RAINBOW can provide air ambulance transport service for critically ill neonate and children across India especially from Raipur, Goa, Northeast and other part of countries if the neonates and children need advanced care.

