

17 months baby with Heart failure is admitted in cardiac specialty hospital in Bulgaria. Baby has dilated cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. She had recurrent arrhythmias (irregularity of heartbeat) and 1 or 2 episodes of cardiac arrests daily in ICU but responding to medical treatment and DC shocks. She is on ventilator, and multiple heart-support infusions. Local medical professional team advised Berlin Heart. Baby's Uncle in UK got connected to us for treatment options. We gave option ECMO for stabilization and heart transplant as a definitive treatment in India. In Bulgaria it is very difficult to get donor heart for transplant. After lot of discussion and enquiries family accepted to come down India for treatment.

Next, we got connected to treating doctors of Bulgaria hospital to know current status (at that time) and treatment protocol, and we came to know that baby was very sick for transport. Our team, along with local medical team discussed strategies to stabilize the baby in the next few days' time. Meanwhile baby's family arranged funds for air lifting with support of local NGOs. We made a team ready for air transfer, air ambulance and medical team started to Bulgaria for shifting the baby. There is some technical issue with air ambulance aircraft, so, we aborted the transfer for a day. Next day we arranged another air ambulance which proceeded to Bulgaria and baby was shifted to air ambulance from hospital ambulance, started off to India.

The air ambulance had fuel filling halts in the transit, baby had cardiac arrest during transit and is successfully treated by the transit Doctors. After recovery we took permission from mother to further proceed to India, with her approval, further travelled to reach India. Total journey was 18 hours, including fuel halts. After shifting the baby to India Hospital, immediately she was put on Central VA ECMO and stabilized. Luckily baby got the 2yr old baby donor heart within few days. Heart Transplant was performed, while central VA ECMO was continued another 5 days to support new heart. ECMO was weaned off 5th day of heart Transplant. Baby was shifted room after 25 days of ICU care. At the time of this report, she was still in India Hospital and is fit for discharge.