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Maa Kauvery Chennai Saves Lung of Two-Month-Old Baby from Bangladesh Through Complex Keyhole Surgery

CHENNAI – 25 Nov, 2026 A two-month-old baby boy suffering from a severe chest infection that had trapped and collapsed a lung has been successfully treated at Maa Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, through a complex minimally invasive keyhole procedure. The surgery helped preserve the affected lung while draining the abscesses in the lung and diaphragm, avoiding the need for conventional open-chest surgery or removal of a lung lobe. The infant began breathing without respiratory support on the first day after surgery.

The baby boy was diagnosed with severe empyema thoracis, a serious condition in which pus accumulates in the space between the lung and chest wall. As the infection progressed, a thick layer of inflamed tissue formed around the lung, restricting its movement and preventing normal expansion. The infection had also resulted in a lung abscess, involving the formation of a collection of pus within the lung tissue itself. The situation was further complicated by a rare abscess involving the diaphragm, the muscle separating the chest and abdomen, with the infection causing pressure towards the liver.

Before reaching Maa Kauvery Hospital, the family from Bangladesh had been advised that the infant might require a thoracotomy (open-chest surgery) and lower lobectomy (removal of a lung lobe). The presence of a lung abscess, which had severely affected the lung tissue, was a key reason why removal of the affected lobe had been considered. Given the baby's young age, the surgical team carefully assessed whether the infection could be treated while retaining as much functioning lung tissue as possible. The multidisciplinary team decided to pursue a minimally invasive thoracoscopic approach.

During the keyhole procedure, the surgeons carefully released the adhesions that had trapped the lung, removed the thick infected tissue restricting its expansion and drained the abscess involving the diaphragm. The team also successfully drained the lung abscess, clearing the collection of pus within the lung without complications and avoiding the need to remove the affected lung lobe. The approach allowed the affected lung to expand again while avoiding a major open-chest operation and lung resection. Addressing the diaphragmatic abscess was also important to control the infection and reduce the risk of its spread towards the abdomen.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Raghul M, Clinical Lead, Paediatric Surgery, Maa Kauvery – Radial Road, with anaesthesia support from Dr. T. Mohana Rangam, Clinical Lead & Senior Consultant, Anaesthesiology.

Following surgery, the baby received specialised care in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), managed by Dr. N. Saravanapandian, Senior Consultant, Paediatric Intensive Care, Kauvery Hospital, Radial Road, and his team. The infant responded well to treatment, and the affected lung re-expanded. The baby was breathing independently without respiratory support from the first postoperative day.

Dr. Raghul M, Clinical Lead, Paediatric Surgery, Maa Kauvery – Radial Road, said, "This was an unusually complex infection in a very young infant. The infection had trapped the lung, affected its tissue and caused a lung abscess as well as a rare abscess involving the diaphragm. Our priority was not only to treat the infection but also to give the baby the best possible chance of retaining healthy lung tissue. Through a minimally invasive keyhole approach, we were able to release the trapped lung, clear the infected tissue and drain the lung and diaphragmatic abscesses without complications, without removing a lung lobe. Seeing the lung expand again and the baby breathe independently soon after surgery was especially encouraging."

Dr.D. Senguttuvan Duraisamy, Co-founder & Executive Director, Maa Kauvery, said, "Treating a severe infection of this nature in a very young baby requires not only advanced surgical skills but also meticulous anaesthesia and intensive care support. We are proud of our team's ability to manage this challenging procedure through a minimally invasive approach, preserve the affected lung and achieve an excellent recovery. This reflects our commitment to bringing advanced, child-focused medical care to patients, even in the most challenging circumstances."