

1000th child to be supported with the Berlin Heart ventricular assist device

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Berlin, 24th January 2012:

The EXCOR[®] Pediatric ventricular assist device has been implanted in more than 1000 cases.

This so-called artificial heart enables seriously ill children with heart defects to bridge the time until a suitable donor heart is found. It is the only system worldwide that is designed especially for the physiological needs of children.

This system was invented in Berlin and is used in children of all ages all over the world. The youngest patient that was supported with this device was just over two days old. EXCOR[®] Pediatric has just been approved in the USA by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

End of 2011, a 15-year-old boy from Tyrol who was suffering from myocarditis was implanted with the device being the 1000th EXCOR[®] patient at the University hospital in Innsbruck. In the meantime, he has already been successfully transplanted and will be able to go home within the next few days. Only with the help of the EXCOR[®] system, that supported his heart for 53 days he was able to survive the wait for a donor heart.

The clinic in Innsbruck is extremely well experienced with the handling of the ventricular assist device made by Berlin Heart, which was first implanted there in a child in Austria in 2000. With the implantation performed by Dr. David Vondrys and Prof. Herwig Antretter, Ivan was even able to visit a soccer game at the Tivoli Stadium in Innsbruck, accompanied by his clinical team. As a great soccer fan that was a very special event for him “We are constantly trying to make our little patients happy with such experiences which bring a small change to their clinic routine. A little while ago, we visited Innsbruck airport and a fire station with another patient and the little boy was even able to ride the fire ladder“ says Dr. Ulrich Schweigmann, the responsible pediatric cardiologist.

„We are excited to see that the 1000th patient is feeling so well and was able to make such an excursion. We are focussing on the development of a new mobile driving unit, that will allow children to move around even more freely“ says Dr. Stefan Thamasett, General Manager of the Berlin Heart GmbH.

About Berlin Heart

Berlin Heart GmbH is the only company worldwide that develops, produces, and distributes implantable and external ventricular assist devices for patients of every age and body size. The devices INCOR[®], EXCOR[®] Adult and

EXCOR[®] Pediatric can support failing hearts short-, mid- and long-term and therefore offer a life-saving therapy. Customers moreover benefit from clinical and technical support by Berlin Heart VAD specialists who are available 7-24. INCOR[®] and EXCOR[®] Adult are not FDA-approved, but widely used in Europe. The company is the market leader in Germany and Europe.

About EXCOR[®]

EXCOR[®] is a para-corporeal ventricular assist device for patients of all age groups, from newborns to adults. It is used for short-, mid- and long-term cardiac support and can support failing hearts for any duration from a couple of days to several months and years. Since the first implantation in 1988 EXCOR[®] has been implanted in more than 3.000 patients worldwide.

The Berlin Heart EXCOR[®] Pediatric Ventricular Assist Device (EXCOR[®] Pediatric) is approved for use by the FDA under a Humanitarian Device Exemption. All other products are not available in the US.

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[You can find this press release here](#)