

Abstract

Pediatric ECMO case study

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25 September 2026

This presentation reflects on the clinical and emotional journey of managing an 11 year old boy who developed severe cardiac failure secondary to dilated cardiomyopathy. Initially admitted with respiratory distress and end-organ dysfunction, he required escalating inotrope support and was commenced on VA ECMO in Leeds Teaching Hospital. Following transfer to Great Ormond Street Hospital, his support was transitioned from ECMO to an LVAD and later to CPB for heart transplantation.

The session reviews key decision-making processes, inter-hospital co-ordination and the challenges associated with prolonged mechanical circulatory support in paediatric patients. It also reflects on the personal impact such cases have on healthcare professionals, emphasising teamwork, communication and emotional resilience. The presentation highlights both the technical complexities and the human aspects of providing high levels of ECLS care.