

# 4-month-old saved after rare surgery



**MOKSHA AFTER SURGERY**



**MOKSHA NOW**

By **Neetu Chandra** in New Delhi

**MOKSHA'S** life is the triumph of her father's faith.

Even when every doctor predicted death for the girl who was born with six holes in the heart, Anand Chouksey refused to give up on his one-month-old daughter. He didn't question the doctors or their diagnosis, but it's just that he believed in miracles.

And on October 10, the day Moksha turned four months old, the doctors at Batra Hospital in the city proved Anand was right.

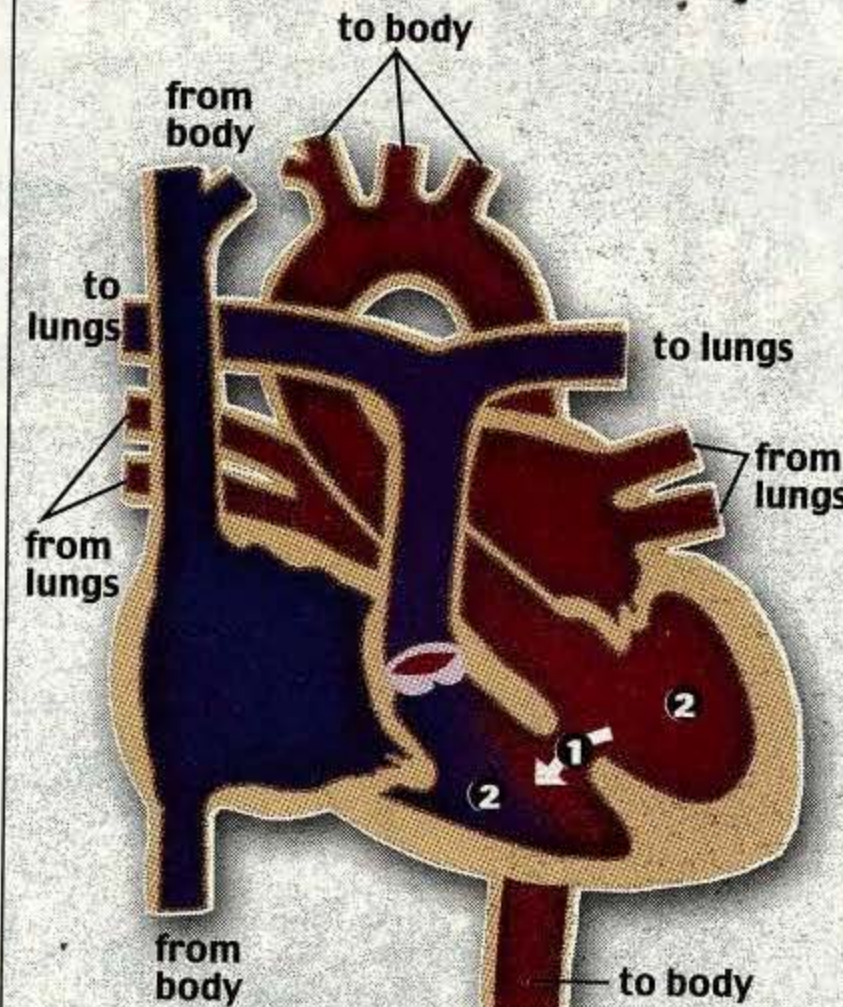
Moksha, born on June 10, is the first child of Anand and Madhumita, a Bhopal-based couple. Within a month of her birth, she started showing signs of illness — she was not able to feed properly and started losing weight. She also developed severe lung infection and pneumonia.

Anand and Madhumita took the baby to several reputed doctors in Bhopal. The diagnosis was shocking — Moksha was suffering from a rare disorder of the heart called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). VSD is a hole in the septum that separates the ventricles, which are the lower chambers of the heart. Moksha had six holes in her ventricular septum.

The doctors in Bhopal were unanimous in their verdict: the baby will not survive. The couple then decided to try the hospitals in Delhi. A small hotelier, Anand knew treatment in the Capital would be too expensive, but he was

## Heart of the matter

Doctors at Batra Hospital performed a four-hour surgery to plug the holes — there were six of them — in the heart of a four-month-old girl



① Hole or defect in ventricular septum ② Ventricles

### What is VSD?

Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) is a hole in the wall of the heart that separates the two ventricles. A patient can have single or multiple ventricular septal defects. Moksha had six holes in her heart.

### What causes it?

VSD is a congenital heart disease. Research is on to find out the cause of the disease.

### How common is VSD?

According to estimates, five babies in every 1,000 born in India are diagnosed with it.

### Does it occur at birth?

Yes. But small defects often don't reveal any symptoms and the holes close on their own.

### The usual symptoms:

Heavy breathing, gradual weight loss, lung infection and pneumonia.

### What is Dacron?

A Dacron graft is a synthetic material for replacing normal body tissues. The graft causes very few reactions because it is chemically harmless and easily tolerated by the body.

the city hospitals are. "At the second hospital, the doctors discharged her without any treatment. They asked me to settle a bill of Rs 1,76,000 but I could deposit only Rs 1,75,000. I promised to pay Rs 1,000 as soon as I reached Bhopal but they didn't relent. They even confiscated my identity card and all my ATM cards till I paid up. I somehow managed the money," Anand recalled.

As a last resort, the couple decided to visit Batra Hospital in South Delhi. "When Moksha came to us in October, she weighed just 3.4 kg. We first monitored the functioning of her heart and lungs" said Dr Anil Bhan, the chief cardiothoracic surgeon of the hospital.

"The baby had severe lung and blood infection and pneumonia. No doctor was

### Moksha was born with six holes in her heart

ready to perform an open heart surgery

