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Pulmonary Agenesis

I read with interest the case report on this subject(1) and wish to share more information on this anomaly. The incidence of pulmonary agenesis is one in 10,000-15,000(2). Parental consanguinity has been found by some workers(3). Associated congenital abnormalities and the involvement of the normal lung is directly proportional to the overall prognosis. In one series 14% of infants with pulmonary agenesis were still born, and 50% of the remainder died by the age of 5 years(4). These patients should be given antibiotics for pulmonary infection and influenza vaccine.

Lung transplantation in pediatric patients is being done with success. This operation was recently performed on a two week old baby, who is the youngest child in the world to have a lung transplant. Dr. Starnes, a cardiothoracic surgeon in the USA, performed lung transplant operations, both on young and older children. The long term prognosis following transplantation is better in older children. It is

too early to predict the prognosis in smaller children. The oldest child surviving after lung transplantation has survived for 10 years(5).

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