



They 'removed' her tiny heart, resected the tumor and put it back in.

It was diagnosed that she had a tumor in her heart while she was still in the womb. Doctors said, "She will have no choice but a heart transplant in the future." As she grew, the tumor also grew, reaching the same size as her heart. Ekin Ada Işık was reborn with a miraculous surgery when she was 5 years old. His name is mentioned among the "cardiac surgeons of the century". Prof Dr Afksendios Kalangos and his associate Dr. Yılmaz Zorman 'removed Ekin's heart' during the surgery, then they resected the tumor from the heart and afterwards her own heart was transplanted back to Ekin, who was kept alive without her heart in the chest cavity for 8 hours. Doctors said that they have not come across any other case in the world that came back to life with cardiac auto-transplantation "at such a young age". Ekin Ada, the only child of Mustafa and Fahriye Işık couple living in Balıkesir, was found to have a tumor in her heart when she was 32 weeks old in the womb. Even though the doctors said to take the baby, the mother, Fahriye Karaca Işık, wanted to give birth to her. Every doctor they consulted before she was born said, "The only solution would be a heart transplant." Until the age of 5, her tumor grew along with her heart. Ekin Ada was reborn with a surgery that was performed at Koç University Hospital last October and will enter the world medical literature. During the 8-hour surgery, Ekin Ada's heart was "removed" and transplanted after having removed the tumor on the operating table. Prof A KALANGOS and his associate Opr. Dr. Yılmaz Zorman described this unique operation as follows: "It was such a risky surgery that we performed it while holding our breath. If you have a heart transplant from a cadaver, you have another healthy organ in your hand. In

auto-transplantation, that is, a transplant from the patient himself, you have another organ that you can replace in case of the slightest mistake." "There are no organs," he explained.

"I WITNESSED HER SECOND BIRTH" "I witnessed the second birth of this child," said Koç University Faculty of Medicine Hospital Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular Surgery Department Head Prof. Dr. Afksendiyos Kalangos continued his words as follows: "I first met Ekin Ada when she was in the womb at 32 weeks. A heart tumor was detected in the fetal ECHO. After our daughter was born, we started monitoring her every 3 to 6 months. As the tumor within the heart grew up as the heart was growing up. One of the downsides of these tumors is that they cause rhythm irregularities. These are cases in which the risk of sudden death is very high. The size of the tumor was almost equal to the size of the heart; a 7 centimeter tumor when Ekin Ada's heart was already 8 centimeters long. The tumor in the left ventricle had another major danger. "A major coronary artery was passing through the tumor." WE RESECTED THE TUMOR FROM THE HEART LIKE PEELING AN ONION" Prof. Dr. Kalangos explained that it was impossible to operate on her with the heart in place because a vital vessel was passing through the tumor, and emphasized that they took a great risk and chose to remove the heart and perform the surgery. Prof. Dr. Kalangos said, " We had to work very carefully, so we removed the heart, separated it from its vessels, and continued the surgery by putting it on the table (with the heart separated from the body). The chest cavity remained completely empty, and she was connected to the machine in a 'heartless' state. We kept the heart on the table, without damaging the left ventricle. We opened the myocardium carefully by preserving coronary branches. Together with Dr. Yılmaz Zorman, we held our breath and delicately resected the tumor from the heart muscle, as peeling an onion from its skin. We found the thin, one-millimeter coronary artery passing through the tumor, and by carefully separating it from the tumor, we completely resected the heart. "We put the repaired heart back on its anatomic place" he said.

AFTER PUTTING BACK THE HEART, HE WAITED FOR THE FIRST BEAT, HAVING HIS EYES ON THE SCREEN. Prof. also said that the first thing he did after transplanting the heart back to Ekin Ada was to look at the monitor. Dr. Kalangos concluded his words as follows: "The first thing you do at that moment, of course, is you put your eyes on the monitor. The heart started working again and we experienced great relief. I am a surgeon who routinely performed heart-lung transplants in children, especially when I was abroad in Geneva. Although I am a surgeon with a lot of experience in heart transplantation, this was the first time I was performing auto-transplantation, which means removing and reattaching the patient's heart. So this was a special moment for me too. Ekin Ada had no other alternative. Imagine a person sentenced to death miraculously coming back to life.

"If this is not the second birth, what is it?"

"WE HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE EVEN AT THE SMALLEST MISTAKE" Opr. Dr. Yılmaz Zorman, who performed the surgery together with Prof. Dr. Kalangos, said that they held their breath many times during the 8-hour surgery and said: "It was a very long surgery. We came face to face with the doctor many times. I really don't remember how many times we held our breath. Ekin Ada is a very special child in every way. I have

never encountered this type of surgery in my career. We also scanned the literature together with my teacher. A patient of this age who had a successful surgery with such a diagnosis is not mentioned in the literature. "We couldn't find it. There have been some attempts, but a successful surgery and auto-transplantation in a child of this age are the factors that make this surgery rare, in my opinion." Dr. also explained that Ekin Ada, who started to experience the risk of sudden death due to rhythm disorders, was not in a position to wait for a transplant until a heart suitable for her age, height and weight was found. Zorman said, "Let's say a heart transplant surgery was performed, you would have an alternative at that moment. Because there is a viable heart tissue there and it will work when you replace it. But we had no second alternative. In fact, before we took Ekin into surgery, we were asked many times why we were doing this. Because you take them from their mother's arms to the operating room, but if things don't go well, you may have to give them bad news. This would be devastating for all of us. He concluded his words by saying, "He is coming to visit us now, there is no way to describe this happiness."

"SOMEONE SAID PROF KALANGOS SHOULD TAKE A RISK AND SAVED HER"

Explaining that it was very difficult to face the terrible diagnosis she received in the last weeks of her pregnancy, mother Fahriye Işık Karaca expressed her feelings as follows: "Everything was going very well until the 32nd week, but suddenly we were shaken by news that turned us upside down. In the hospitals we visited, we were told that nothing could be done for our daughter. She remained in intensive care for 10 days after birth, but I was able to hold her in my arms 10 days later. Everyone takes their children and leaves, but you leave the hospital empty-handed. I experienced what helplessness means with my daughter. Thank God for Kalangos. We met our surgeon. He told us that no child can be left to its fate and that someone has to take the risk. There was no other method to try. That's why you dare and accept it. While in the first hospital we went to, they were talking about ending the child's life in the womb and giving birth to me, you encounter such a thing that you give birth to your child. He gives him back to health and shows you that you can spend a lifetime with him. "If I say that the world is mine, it would be an understatement."

"I FEEL LIKE A HERO" Father Mustafa Işık noted that before his daughter's birth, they told him that he had no choice but a heart transplant in every hospital they went to and said, "When the surgery was completed, our doctor called us to the door of the operating room. As soon as Prof KALANGOS opened his hands, we realized that the surgery went well and the whole world became ours. I hugged him and cried", the father spoke. Little Ada, who resisted such a difficult disease with her tiny body and regained her health with the miraculous surgery she underwent, said that she felt her like a hero and continued, "I was very curious about what would happen before the surgery. I was waiting like a hero. I had been in intensive care twice before. The days had been very long then. I'm not afraid anymore because I've grown up. I want to be a veterinarian in the future because I love animals very much. "I want to heal them," she said. (DHA)

<https://www.dha.com.tr/yerel-haberler/istanbul/merkez/minik-kalbini-sokup-tumoru-temizleyip-tekrar-2378310>

