



First remember YOU can "interview" your doctors - do not be intimidated by them they are human – it is important you develop a relationship with your doctors and the staff that will take care of you and your child.

How many CDH babies does the hospital have per year average? (On average, hospitals treating 10 or more per year have a higher survival rate than 50%).

What is their survival/success rate?

Do they have ECMO and a team/program and how long have they utilized it for their hospital/Medical Center?

How many ECMO Machines do they have and how many patients can they treat on ECMO at one time? How long has the hospital utilized ECMO and their staff's experience?

What are the Rules/Policies of the NICU or Hospital you should be aware of?

How much of an active roll do they allow parents to play in their child's care?

(A good hospital/doctor will tell you as much as you want to and we get permission from you before each procedure – unless it was urgently needed. There are exceptions – when they are in critical care sometimes touching and sounds can aggravate a baby.)

How many doctors are on their TEAM?

Do they use a TEAM approach in their hospital with patients? That is - Nurses, Doctors, Respiratory Therapists all are involved in the care of that child and before a major decision - they consult.

Do they consult with other Hospitals on their patient's care?

Do they perform laser/laparoscopic surgery for the repair if they can?
(There are a few out there that are doing this now on smaller herniations.)

When do they start Physical Therapy on these babies?
(The sooner they start the more likely residuals are resolved or abetted.)
How will they be tracking the progress of your baby?

Can you Meet/Interview the neonatologists, surgeons, and tour the NICU?

Make sure you feel your questions are answered!! Do not feel you are annoying or like you are irritating them! This is your baby!!! One mom always told the doctors, nurses, and surgeon "I know that he is your patient, but he's my baby!"

Also, check with your hospital social worker. There are hundreds of programs that help with food, parking and other expenses that you will have. It adds up quick.

If I think my baby has suffered enough can I say when enough is enough?

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