

Hand on
heart...



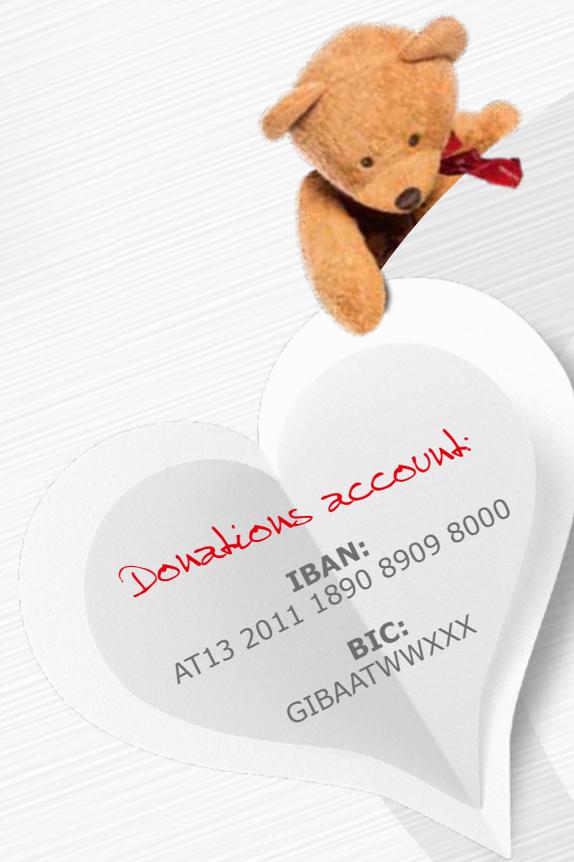
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Prenatal diagnosis:
**We are expecting a child
with a heart disease.**

Now what?



Prenatal diagnosis:

We are expecting a child with a heart disease -

Now what?

This statement hits expectant parents right in the heart. Thousand questions, uncertainty, fear and the question of WHY arise.

Although diagnostics have become more reliable in recent years, congenital heart defects cannot always be determined before birth.

For a „correct“ diagnosis, the experience of the examining doctor and the quality of the equipment are crucial and yet some heart defects remain hidden even for the trained eye... . Therefore, some uncertainty will remain until birth. Only after the birth can they investigate and the cardiological examination will tell, if it is necessary and when to operate.

The prenatal examinations do **NOT** serve in the decision taking of bringing only healthy children to life. Many children with heart defects can have despite multiple surgeries and / or other treatments a good quality of life.

However, there are heart defects that are so serious or occur in combination with other diseases, that the child will probably not survive. In this difficult situation, the question „To carry out the pregnancy or not?“ arises.

When facing this decision, to carry out or to abort the pregnancy, you should and you have the right to consult with other doctors and hear their opinions.

We ask you to consult with a psychologist before taking any decisions! Do not let yourself be pushed in making a decision, before you consult with a specialist.

Herzkinder Österreich has in **every federal state of Austria contact persons**, which are also affected parents, that share their life story and advise at any time heart families in all non-medical issues and concerns.

We do not want and will not influence your decision in any way! But we can accompany you on your way in finding a solution, that you can live with.

However, it is of enormous importance to seek the exchange of informations with other affected parents. Give us a call! If you wish, we provide contacts to other affected parents, who have already dealt with this situation.

- ♥ **Take your time in taking this difficult decision!**
- ♥ **Procure all the informations that you need to take this decision!**
- ♥ **Do not let yourself be put under (time) pressure!**
- ♥ **Seek advice and support for this decision is of great consequence!**
- ♥ **Which clinic comes for childbirth and possibly prompt operations in question? Both services should be, especially with complex congenital heart defects, available in the same clinic.**
- ♥ **Who takes care of the siblings?**
- ♥ **What help is available to us?**



With heart and soul there for you...

