

time for pastoral talk. There was no one there to do that other than Mr Dhasmana.

20. On the evening before Richard's operation my husband and I met with Mr Dhasmana in a cosy little room just off the ward.
21. I had seen Mr Dhasmana briefly earlier that day, but it was on this occasion that Mr Dhasmana dealt with the detail of the planned surgery.
22. Mr Dhasmana came over as friendly caring and concerned. That particularly struck me about him. I was left in no doubt that he wanted to do his best for my husband and I and Richard.
23. Mr Dhasmana explained the surgery that was going to be carried out the following day. He drew diagrams for us to illustrate what was going to happen. He drew a diagram showing a normal heart. He drew a diagram showing the current problem with Richard's heart. He drew a diagram showing us what he was going to do to put that right. He could see that we had not taken on board exactly what was to happen the first time and he went through that all again until he was sure we understood what was to happen.

24. Mr Dhasmana told my husband and I that the operation would take about eight hours and it is my recollection that he gave a sixty-forty chance of success.
25. Mr Dhasmana said that if the operation did not take place then the balloon catheter would not last forever and as Richard got bigger he would be at risk. It was better for surgery to take place earlier rather than later.
26. I was in no doubt that the operation had to take place whatever the risk.
27. I remember the whole discussion as being unhurried, kind and friendly and I felt very comfortable.
28. I was quite aware that any surgery would have risks under general anaesthetic.
29. I had no discussions with the anaesthetist Doctor Masey prior to the operation as far as I can recall.
30. There was no suggestion that either this operation or the balloon catheter operation should have been done elsewhere than at the Children's Hospital in the first instance and the BRI in the second instance.

31. I do not recall whether the percentage success rate explained by Mr Dhasmana was the hospital's success rate, his success rate or the general success rate.
32. I and my husband had no difficulty in giving consent to the operation and we did.
33. I cannot recall the likelihood of future surgery or protracted drug regimes being discussed or side effects or other complications or alternative treatment methods.

#### **THE TIMING OF THE SURGERY**

34. As far as I was concerned between the balloon catheter operation and the switch operation, everything went according to plan and on time and at no stage was I anxious that there was any delay with regard to the switch surgery. If delay there was it was from the point of birth to the point of first referral to the Children's Hospital for the balloon catheter operation.