# Child Death

Case 1

A two year old boy who was diagnosed with tetralogy of Fallot was admitted to the cardiac surgery unit for correction of his cardiac anomaly. On admission he weighed only 9 kgs. Mother reported that his appetite was poor and he had global developmental delay. According to the mother, the child usually tired easily and began panting with any form of exertion. He had suffered from repeated lower respiratory tract infections. On examination the doctor noted that he was very small for his age and had blue extremities. On auscultation a cardiac murmur could be heard. Full blood count showed high haemoglobin level, Chest X ray showed classic boot shaped heart, right cardiac echogram showed ventricular septal defect and pulmonary stenosis, confirming the diagnosis.

Open heart surgery was attempted to correct the anomaly and surgery took 10 hours to complete. The child was then transferred to Cardiac ICU for recovery. He was on a ventilator for 3 hours in the ICU and died of post operative complications related to the heart lung bypass procedure.

Case 2

A 5 year old male child was on steroid inhalation therapy for chronic childhood asthma since 3 years of age. He had developed an upper respiratory tract infection and had cough and cold with wheeze for the last 5 days. His mother took him to the general practitioner for treatment and the doctor introduced bronchodilators and increased the dose of steroids. Despite treatment his wheezing worsened around 1am and his parents took him to the emergency department at 1.30 in the morning. He died from the acute exacerbation of chronic asthma at 3.30 am.