

Esophageal Atresia & TEF (EA/TEF) in Children

Introduction

Esophageal atresia is a condition where the esophagus ends in a pouch and does not connect to the stomach. Often, there is a tracheoesophageal fistula (TEF), an abnormal connection between the esophagus and trachea.

Symptoms & Diagnosis

- Frothy secretions, coughing, choking on feeds
- Abdominal distension
- Tube cannot pass into stomach

Diagnosis confirmed by X-ray and inability to pass tube.

Treatment

Surgery to connect esophagus to stomach and close fistula, usually within first days of life.

How Dr. Daniel Manages EA/TEF

Stabilizes newborn with suctioning, IV fluids, oxygen if needed. Prefers thoracoscopic repair when feasible. Explains clearly to parents and monitors baby in NICU. Uses staged repair for complex cases.

Recovery & Follow-up

Feeds introduced once healing confirmed. Some babies may have reflux or swallowing issues needing follow-up.

FAQs

1. Is this life-threatening? Yes, but correctable.
2. Can my baby feed normally after surgery? Most can, some need temporary support.
3. Why thoracoscopic repair? Less pain, smaller scars, faster recovery.