FACT SHEET

Patient Background

Name:	Alexzander Wood
Age:	9 years old
Hometown:	Orange Park, Fla.
Mother:	Elizabeth Wood
Diagnosis:	Idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (a weakness of the heart muscle)
Procedure:	Doctors implanted a Berlin Heart, which is a bilateral ventricular assist device (VAD) designed to boost the heart's pumping action, on Friday, Sept. 29, during a nearly five-hour procedure.

Timeline

Aug. 11	University of Florida pediatric cardiologists diagnose Alexzander with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy.
Aug. 13	Alexzander admitted to Shands at UF.
Aug. 25	Alexzander listed on heart transplant waiting list. His condition deteriorates.
Sept. 25	UF physicians decide Berlin Heart is the only alternative to keep Alexzander's heart pumping until a donor organ becomes available.
Sept. 28	Berlin Heart, Inc. cardiac surgeon and perfusionist from Germany arrive in Gainesville to consult with UF physicians, supervise the use of a heart-lung bypass machine during surgery and train Shands' nursing staff to manage post-surgical care.
Sept. 29	UF physicians implant Berlin Heart in Alexzander.

About the Device

The Berlin Heart, a mechanical heart device sized specifically for children, is designed to boost a heart's pumping action until a donor organ becomes available. The computerized pump system is the size of a small orange and is known as a ventricular assist device, or VAD. Produced by Berlin Heart, Inc. in Germany, it is available in various sizes suitable for use in infants and small children. Most of the device extends outside the body and connects to the heart via tubes implanted in the patient's chest.

In addition to its use as a "bridge" to transplantation, the Berlin Heart is sometimes an option for patients who are not eligible for transplantation. In other cases, it allows the heart time to recover and transplantation can be avoided altogether.

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200	Number of Berlin Heart implants performed internationally
68	Number of Berlin Heart implants performed in the U.S. and Canada (including Alexzander)
1 – 234 days	Length of time patients have relied on Berlin Heart implantation (U.S. and Canada)
450 days	Longest time a patient has relied on Berlin Heart implantation (worldwide)
1990	First use of Berlin Heart in a child (an 8-year-old boy with end-stage heart failure)
1992	First use of Berlin Heart in a newborn

The Berlin Heart has been used successfully in pediatric patients with:

- Acute fulminant myocarditis
- Cardiomyopathy
- Post-cardiotomy failure
- End-stage congenital heart disease
- Post-transplant graft failure

Shands at the University of Florida

Shands HealthCare is a private, not-for-profit health system affiliated with the University of Florida. Shands at the University of Florida, an academic medical center in Gainesville, is the state's leading referral center. Shands at UF patients come from every county in the state and from throughout the Southeast, the nation and more than a dozen other countries each year. Shands and UF clinical teams provide healthcare in more than 100 medical specialties, from family practice and pediatric services to highly complex, critical care. Since UF faculty physicians at Shands performed Florida's first successful adult and pediatric kidney transplants in 1966, the organization has earned a reputation for excellence with many medical 'firsts' at the state, regional and national levels.

Shands at UF programs and experts are recognized for service excellence and quality. Shands at UF holds the distinction of being designated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a 'Magnet' hospital for nursing excellence. The U.S.News & World Report also ranks the hospital annually among the nation's top hospitals. In addition, multiple programs within Shands at UF have been recognized for outstanding patient satisfaction scores compared with peer institutions.