

## Harnessing the power of innovation and a patient's will to survive

Amazing.

That's how doctors are describing a young woman's incredible fight for survival.

At 26 years old, Shraddha Kalgutkar was told she had less than a year to live. Determined to prove everyone wrong, she sought help at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

Shraddha is now living proof of what can happen when you combine the power of innovation and a patient's relentless will to survive.

Video	Audio
	(Nat sound of ocean)
	These days, Shraddha Kalgutkar walks on the beach with ease.
	(Nat sound of beeping in hospital)
	A far cry from just two years ago when Shraddha was barely able to put one foot in front of the other.
Shraddha Kalgutkar Patient	"I cannot believe I did it. I didn't believe I had the strength to work on this. If life hadn't pushed me this far, I wouldn't have done it."
Courtesy: Shraddha Kalgutkar	Shraddha was born in India with a rare liver disease. The hope was her liver would heal itself. She grew up seemingly healthy and eventually moved to the United States to fulfill her dream of becoming an occupational therapist. Then, suddenly, her dream turned into a nightmare.
	"She was like ... why is your hand all purple and blue?"
	Shraddha was rushed to the hospital, where it was discovered Shraddha's body wasn't getting enough oxygen. Additional tests revealed her congenital liver condition had worsened ... and led to a more serious condition called hepatopulmonary syndrome. Her condition so severe, Shraddha was denied a liver transplant and given one year to live.

	"That can't be that I just have one year. I just can't have a year with nothing to bring to this world. I have not served my purpose."
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"Her disease was advanced enough that all transplant centers looked at her and said she does not have enough oxygen in her system to survive the surgery itself, and that's when we got really involved."
	A multidisciplinary team of experts at Mayo Clinic in Arizona devised a plan using cutting-edge technology to get Shraddha the lifesaving transplant she needed. First, to buy extra time to perform the complex procedure, they used one of the latest advances in organ transplant called "liver in a box."
	"Having the 'liver in a box' will allow the donor liver to stay healthy while we're performing surgery on such a complex patient."
	Following the transplant, Shraddha was placed on a life-support machine called extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO.
Ayan Sen, M.D. Critical Care Medicine Mayo Clinic	"That helps in getting oxygen into the blood and carbon dioxide out of the blood through that machine and the membrane. So it helped us while her lungs recovered after the transplant."
	(Nat sound – <i>Beep beep. Shraddha how we feeling? Thumbs up?</i> )
	And unlike standard ECMO units, this one was mobile — allowing Shraddha to walk after her surgery ... one gentle step at a time.
	"She could walk around with the machine so that we could continue with her physical therapy, which is so important for the healing process after such a complex surgery."
	"It's the multidisciplinary approach, teamwork, the team of experts that can communicate on a regular basis to put innovative approaches and technologies in place to help patients who otherwise have

	no other place to help them other than Mayo Clinic."
	Shraddha spent nearly two months in the ICU walking every day with the heart of a warrior.
	"From that day, I thought even if it pains, even if it's impossible, that I feel I still need to put that step forward to do something better today than yesterday. I was in a race with myself every day."
	(Nat sound beautiful – “ <i>Good work, Shraddha</i> ”
	(Nat sound ocean)
	Two years after surgery, Shraddha is healthy, the pain of her past replaced with purpose to show gratitude to those who saved her life.
	"I will try to become as good a healthcare professional as they are to help someone so I can put forward their purpose and help someone else."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Marty Velasco Hames.