

Boy with missing intestine dies

20th September 2023



Gbenga Oloniniran,
Dayo Oyewo and
Samuel Bolaji

Twelve-year-old Adebola Akin-Bright, whose small part of his intestines was missing while undergoing treatment has died.

The PUNCH learnt that he died on Tuesday evening at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja.

A source close to the family of the deceased told our correspondent that the boy developed complications and was rushed to the intensive care unit of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital where he was thereafter pronounced dead.

The source said, “He passed on this evening, I can confirm that because I spoke with the mother. The mother and I are very close. I walked her to LASUTH. There were about four doctors working on the boy. The boy was gasping for breath. When they tried to do all they could do and couldn’t find anything, they just put oxygen on him and I joined them to put the boy in the ambulance. They took him straight to the Intensive Care Unit and at that point, I had to leave. I just got home now and I called my friend (the mum). She said, ‘The boy has given up already’ and hung up the call.”

The Lagos State House of Assembly had earlier on Tuesday called on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to direct the Ministry of Health to release funds for the overseas treatment of the boy.

The boy’s mother, Deborah Abiodun, had pleaded with the governor to probe the disappearance of her son’s small intestines, which according to her, occurred while the boy was receiving treatment at LASUTH.

However, the hospital management denied the allegation in a statement made on its page on X, on August 12, 2023.

The Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, while presiding over Tuesday’s plenary, moved that Akin-Bright needed urgent treatment abroad.

Obasa and the House also called for the immediate arrest of the doctor of the private hospital, Obitoks Medical Centre, in the Alimosho area of the state, who performed the initial surgery that led to the missing small intestine while investigations continue.

Related News

The speaker’s position followed a preliminary report by the Majority Leader, Noheem Adams, who briefed the House on the findings of a five-man ad hoc committee created to investigate the circumstances that led to the disappearance of the boy’s intestine.

Adams, while presenting the report, said members of the ad hoc committee visited the boy at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital on Tuesday.

He said the full report would soon be presented, adding that some shocking discoveries were made in the course of its investigations.

“We made some shocking discoveries in the course of our investigation. The incident is very unusual, but we want the boy to survive, and we know Mr Speaker is very interested in his survival too.

“We went to LASUTH on the directives of the Speaker, Rt. Hon Mudashiru Obasa, to find out the health status of Adebola Akin-Bright.

“The hospital told us that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had taken care of the bill for his treatment at LASUTH,” he said.

Contacted, the spokesperson for LASUTH, Oluwaseyi Oniyide, said she had not gotten the report of the boy’s demise, saying the hospital would release a statement when she confirmed.

Oniyide said, “I’ve not heard that yet. When I find out, you’ll see our statement.”