

## Death of 15 babies in Tunisia in two days: National disaster

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Fifteen infants died between Thursday and Friday in a maternity hospital in Tunis, probably as a result of nosocomial infection. Tunisian Minister of Health Abderraouf Cherfi has resigned. Several investigations have been launched but according to the

Tunisian society of pediatrics, “the elements of the ongoing investigation are moving towards a nosocomial infection (related to care, contracted during the hospitalization, ed) severe, whose point of the starting material is a parenteral nutrition product, i.e. administered intravenously. Very quickly, the President of the Republic spoke of national disaster, calling for the hearing, before a National Security Council, the Minister of Health. The latter submitted his

resignation, quickly accepted by the Prime Minister who went on the scene in the evening. Other premature infants have been infected, the exact number is unknown. Civil society voices are demanding a clear and thorough public health audit to shed light on this tragedy.

The hospital also stopped the use of suspected drugs and exchanged them for a new stock at the central pharmacy, to avoid another tragedy.

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