



A HANDFUL OF LIFE - EXTREME PREEMIES AND THEIR CHANCES

by Antje Christ



SYNOPSIS

More and more babies are born too early: 15 million premature births worldwide. Some of them come into this world at only 22 weeks and weigh less than 500 grams: the "extreme preemies". Not that long ago, few people would have believed that such prematurely born babies stood a chance of survival. Today, survival rates for these tiny beings have increased significantly. Following the cases of four extremely premature babies in Germany, France, Great Britain and Japan, this scientific documentary takes a look at international treatment methods in neonatology. It shows the results of recent brain research, presents a long-term study and also follows the worldwide ethical discussion on when life begins. Globally, doctors have a lot of freedom to decide the age at which a child can be kept alive. While doctors in Japan have been legally required to save lives from 22 weeks since 1995, in China premature babies younger than 28 weeks rarely survive. Within Europe too, there are stark...

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