Ethics

There was a recent controversy around the health care of a terminally-ill 11-month-old baby in the United Kingdom.

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The infant was born with a serious mitochondrial disorder that led to the wasting of his muscles and brain. There is no definitive treatment and the baby was on life support for months. His parents wanted to take him to the United States where an experimental therapy could be attempted, with an estimated 10% chance of benefit. Doctors in London said that his clinical condition ruled out any benefit and felt it would be unethical to subject the baby to the turmoil. They felt that the boy should be allowed to die with dignity. The parents took the hospital to the court.

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If you were the judge of the court, what course of action would you suggest and why?

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