

Chennai happening place for liver transplants: MIOT chief

DC CORRESPONDENT
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Chennai is emerging as an international destination for liver transplants as the state and public encourage organ donations from cadavers, said Dr P.V.A. Mohandass, MD, MIOT International hospital on Tuesday.

Announcing the hospital's foray into high risk liver transplant surgeries, he said the cost for a liver transplant is around ₹15 lakh now but within a year MIOT would try to reduce it to ₹10 lakh to ensure that more patients benefit, he said.

Sharing the maiden liver transplant success story, Dr Prithvi Mohandass, joint managing director said the hospital was now ready for more liver transplant surgeries. Liver transplant involves two critical processes of retrieving the liver from the donor and placing the harvested organ into the patient within 8 to 10 hours of the prescribed time.

The donor in this case was a 31-year-old mother of two, declared brain dead at a hospital in Tiruchy and the recipient was Mr Shivakumar of Erode, he said. "A few doc-

tors told me that without a transplant, I might not live beyond six months. After surgery I am enjoying a new lease of life. Within a week after the surgery, I felt confident and ate biriyani after months," Shivakumar told DC. The patient says that a few doctors stayed with him in the ICU through the night when his condition was critical. As on date, there are 20,000 people suffering acute liver diseases in the country and 3,000 patients need a transplant or high-end medical intervention, said Dr George. M. Chandy, director at MIOT hospital.