

## Rare surgery on transplanted heart



**DC CORRESPONDENT**

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Doctors in the city have performed a rare valve replacement in an already transplanted heart, claiming this to be only the third such case in the world.

The patient, who was surviving with a transplanted heart from the age of 15, came to the hospital, having difficulty in breathing. "She was in a very critical stage since a major heart valve was bleeding, and we had to transplant it with a new one," said Dr. V.V.Bashi, chairman, Centre for Thoracic and Cardio Vascular Care, MIOT hospital.

The four-hour surgery saw the aortic valve replaced with an artificial one. "The surgery was very complex because the heart and tissues were close to the chest and a surgical stitch hole too would have led to bleeding. Simultaneously, we had to pass on blood which did not have immunity cells nor white blood cells so that the heart did not reject it," he added.

The doctors said that her age was in favour of the patient and that was how she was able to withstand the surgery.

"The transplanted heart was healthy and young. This is the first time such a case is being reported in India. Two such operations have been performed in Europe. This only proves the capability of doctors in India," said Dr P.V.A. Mohandas, founder and managing director, MIOT International.