

MIOT gets transfusion medicine department

DC CORRESPONDENT
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If we have to prevent morbidity and mortality, then we have to have the most modern blood bank, said Dr P.V.A. Mohandas, managing director of MIOT International. Speaking at the inauguration of a first-of-its-kind transfusion medicine department at the hospital here on Saturday, he said even his colleagues abroad faced similar problems when patients, after an accident leading to multiple fractures, didn't die of it but of a transfusion reaction. "Earlier, we didn't understand that blood transfusion could also cause infections. Blood has many components and we can also draw only platelets. We have equipment for fil-

tering all components of blood," informed Dr Mohandas.

At present, the scope of transfusion medicine has transcended to the next level and it is possible to completely cure certain diseases where the body attacks the nervous system by performing several cycles of plasma exchange.

The new department has been started with an investment of ₹4 crore in equipment and ₹1 crore to set up the facility. Dr Chezhan Subash, haemato oncologist and bone marrow transplant physician, said careful screening of patients, separating components and efficient use of components were needed. The safest type of donated blood is the one that is completely free of any antibody-leucocyte de-

pletion of blood. The hospital brings together component separation, aphaeresis (collecting particular blood component from the donor to use in a patient for therapy) and leucocyte filtration. "Any donor who walks in is given counselling and is asked to fill a questionnaire. Blood is tested for infection, components are separated and stored and then issued. Each unit of blood has four to five components, thereby saving so many lives," said Dr M. Joshua Daniel Jeyakumar, department of transfusion medicine. Mr K.M. Mammen, chairman and managing director of MRF, Ms Ambika Mammen, Ms Mallika Mohandas and Dr Prithvi Mohandas were present on the occasion.



(From left) Ambika Mammen and K.M. Mammen, chairman and MD of MRF, interact with Dr Prithvi Mohandas and his parents Dr P.V.A Mohandas and Mallika Mohandas at the inauguration of department of transfusion medicine at MIOT International on Saturday.