

GH Poster Girl for Heart Transplant Opts for Pvt Hosp



Dr V V Bashi and Dr P V A Mohandas along with Abhinaya N, who underwent an aneurysm surgery, at the MIOT Hospital | EXPRESS

Express News Service

Chennai: A girl who created history in 2009 by becoming the first person to successfully undergo a heart transplant in a public sector hospital, underwent a lifesaving heart surgery at a private hospital this time around.

Abinaya N, originally from Tiruvarur, had all but died when her heart failed in September 2009, but was miraculously saved when the doctors at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital managed to successfully transplant a heart from a brain dead youth from Salem, despite their limited resources.

Since then the hospital hasn't managed to complete too many more (3) successful heart transplants, and the farmer's daughter went on to work in an extended section of the health department in Coimbatore. "On November 22 she was brought here to MIOT hospital with excruciating chest pain. We

found she had developed a large dissecting aneurysm of ascending aorta through which blood was leaking into her heart," recalls Dr V V Bashi, cardiac surgeon.

Conducting a major heart surgery on a post-transplant patient hasn't been attempted too many times before - there are only three documented cases on the world so far. But she needed surgery and she needed it fast, but unlike the last time this wasn't a state run hospital and the costs of the surgery were considerable. When asked why the poster girl for heart transplants in the public sector had opted not to go to GGH or Stanley Medical College, where aneurysm care is quite efficient, the girl said her parents has acted on advice from relatives.

"As she had undergone a transplant the vessels in her heart had lots of clips and some regions were like blotting paper. There was a high risk involved but she survived the four hour surgery," he said.