



Dignitaries at the workshop on Minimally Invasive Vascular Surgery, at MIOT | P RADHAKRISHNAN

Unlocking the key-hole to the heart

At a recent conference, Minimally Invasive Techniques were cited as the best option for heart surgeries

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Chennai: Keyholes, to a surgeon, mean as much as size zero does to an aspiring model. They all want to get there. Inaugurating a two-day live workshop on minimally invasive valve surgery, eminent cardiologists said that doing complex heart procedures through minimally invasive means was the future, "Today, you can-

not imagine an abdominal surgery that is not done laparoscopically. Similarly, a lot of bypass and valvular heart surgeries are going to be done in a minimally invasive manner in a large way in the years to come," said Dr V V Bashi, director of MIOT International's Centre for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Care.

While MIOT has done 51 such surgeries till date, oth-

er hospitals have been a little sluggish with MIVS (Minimally Invasive Vascular Surgery) because of the high infrastructural cost involved. "We use longer probes, scalpels and HD 3D

cameras which are excellent in providing a surgeon with a view inside the patients heart," he added.

With better recovery times, less scarring and less time in the hospital, people

In the years to come, many bypass and valvular heart surgeries will be done in a minimally invasive manner

— Dr V V Bashi, director of MIOT International Centre for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Care.

will soon be turning to the 'keyhole' method of doing even complex heart surgeries, "There are several younger people who need to get to work faster and do not want large scars. This sort of thing is perfect for them," said cardiac surgeon Dr Vijit Cherian who organised the workshop along with Dr Bashi.

Going back in time, MIOT's founder Dr PVA Mo-

handoss, said that they had coined the term keyhole and patented it a decade ago, "People were fascinated by the keyhole surgery. I shortened the length of the incision, and yet the holes were five to six inches long. So some people would complain that it was much larger than an actual keyhole, but I told them that it depended on what sort of key it was!"