

# Woman undergoes rare surgery after transplanted heart develops problems






Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI:** A 25-year-old woman, N. Abinaya, underwent a rare surgery at MIOT Hospital here a fortnight ago to remove an aneurysm in her transplanted heart. According to doctors, only two such cases have been reported in medical literature so far across the world.

She is doing well and will be discharged in a couple of days, said V.V. Bashi, chairman of MIOT's centre for thoracic and cardiovascular care.

Abinaya, who had congenital cardiac myopathy, underwent a heart transplant four years ago at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital. Since she had received the heart of an 18-year-old person she should have done well, considering that healthy hearts are supposed to last 100 years, Dr. Bashi said.

On November 22, she was brought to MIOT with complaints of breathlessness and

CORRECTIVE SURGERY IN TRANSPLANTED HEART	
<b>THE PATIENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 25-year-old woman had congenital heart disease for which she underwent heart transplant four years ago</li> <li>• She reported with breathlessness and was unable to lie down</li> <li>• Hails from a poor family in Tiruvurur. Father is agricultural labourer</li> </ul>	<b>THE PROBLEM</b>  <p>TRANSPLANT AREA FOR AORTA AND HEART</p> <p>The aneurysm found in the ascending aorta. Leaking aortic valve also noticed. Patient given wbc filtered blood. On heart-lung machine during surgery</p>
	<b>HOW IT WAS SOLVED</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>1</b>   </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>2</b>   </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>3</b>   </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascending aorta was replaced. Aortic valve was replaced and coronary arteries were reimplanted</li> <li>• Patient given antibiotic injections costing Rs. 10,000/day for 7 days. Surgery done free of cost</li> </ul>

chest pain. Diagnosis revealed that she had a dissecting aneurysm of the ascending aorta and a leak in the aorta, the major valve of

the heart. The only option cardiac surgeons had was replacement of the diseased portions.

"She was already on life-

**She is doing well and will be discharged in a couple of days**

long medications and another major surgery could be extremely risky. In normal heart surgeries you can transfuse whole blood but in her case this was not possible," said Dr. Bashi, who led a team of surgeons that performed the four-hour surgery to replace Abinaya's diseased aorta.

During the procedure surgeons put her on a heart-lung machine. It was replaced with an artificial valve and graft. The coronary arteries were then reimplanted.

**Special medication**

She was put on special medication to prevent infection. For a week, she was administered expensive antibiotic injections, each

dose of which costs Rs. 10,000.

"World over around 2000 transplants have been performed. It is very rare for a transplanted heart to develop problems," he said, adding: "We don't know what caused the aneurysm in the transplanted heart. In a normal heart aneurysms could be caused by high BP. But in this case, she did not have high BP."

Abinaya was working as a coordinator in the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme in Coimbatore. She resigned from her job after her breathlessness left her unable to move. Her father, Nagarajan, is an agricultural casual labourer in Tiruvurur.

Abinaya said she hoped to return to work once she regains her health.

P.V.A. Mohandas, managing director of MIOT, said the surgery, which was estimated to have cost around Rs.5 lakh to 6 lakh, was done free of cost considering the family's economic condition.