



Dr George Chandy and other dignitaries look on as hospital founder Dr P V A Mohandas congratulates the patient Sivakumar | ALBIN MATHEW

Liver transplant helps man enjoy food again!

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Chennai: The last one-and-half years or so must have been tasteless for Sivakumar, a resident of Erode, who had to exercise extreme caution over what he could eat. His weight had also shot up to around 100 kg due to fluid retention. But not anymore; the 38-year-old gentleman can now go ahead and pamper his taste buds to the fullest, without worry.

All this was made possible only after a liver transplant, involving a marathon eight-and-half hour process, by a team of medical specialists at MIOT Hospitals. They had to race against time and undergo an ordeal akin to a tightrope walk.

A team of multi-disciplinary experts comprising 20 members and led by Dr George Chandy, who were ably supported by nurses, technicians, counsellors and nutritionists, performed

the transplant.

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liver from the donor and preparing and placing the harvested liver in the patient, ideally within a time span not exceeding eight to 10 hours. But the specialists would have had another worry in the back of their minds – this would be the first liver transplant per-

formed in the hospital.

Addressing the press on Tuesday along with his team, Dr Chandy said that a donor was found in Trichy, who's liver had to be harvested and brought back to Chennai in time for the transplant. In the meantime, the patient had to be prepared for the surgery. Tumult characterised the donor liver's journey back to Chennai, as the doctors present related how they had to convince the CISF staff at Trichy airport to allow them to carry the organ in the aircraft cabin protected by perfusion fluids.

Two weeks after surgery, Sivakumar was placed in a private room, out of the ICU, while he was monitored by specialists. A beaming Sivakumar said, "I now hope to make up for all the food that I was unable to consume."

Hospital founder Dr P V A Mohandas was also among those present.