

Docs fix haemophilic man's heart

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Initially for the team of doctors, it seemed like there was no solution. But after a marathon surgery that went on for seven hours, the surgeons managed to fix the heart of Binu Nettikardan, a 38-year-old patient from Kerala, who was admitted at MIOT hospitals with a large swelling of the aorta and a leak of the aortic valve.

The biggest challenge in the operation was that the patient was suffering from haemophilia, a rare disorder in which the blood does not clot normally as it lacks sufficient blood-clotting proteins. This disease mostly affects men. Patients with haemophilia may bleed for a longer time after an injury than they would if their blood clotted normally. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, doctors used clotting factors to control the bleeding and completed the surgery. Dr V V Bashi, who headed the



Mallika Mohandas, owner of MIOT with Binu Nettikardan who underwent the seven-hour surgery

surgical team, said that patients with haemophilia needed to be handled with care during surgery as even after small procedures, they can bleed profusely which can turn fatal.

“Another problem was that we could not use artificial metal valve. Such a valve would need blood thinning tablets for the rest of his life. If given blood thinning tablets, the patient can die of

bleeding,” doctor said. If a biological artificial valve is used it will last for only 10 to 12 years and he will need another surgery. So they decided to repair his valve along with the aneurysm surgery.

“During the surgery on March 23, every bleeding point had to be stopped before we proceeded to the next step. We gave clotting factors during the operation which controlled bleeding and successfully completed the surgery,” said Bashi. Doctors replaced the ascending aorta with a synthetic graft and Nettikardan’s valve was then repaired and re-implanted into the graft.

The bleeding was controlled effectively post the seven hour surgery and the patient was shifted to the intensive care unit. “His post-operative period was uneventful, and he made a remarkable recovery. He had to be given clotting factors post operatively as well,” said the surgeon.