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Two 2-year-olds give and receive life via two organ transplant surgeries

ByBrendan Dabhi / Updated: Jun 17, 2020, 07:40 IST



(Left)Two-year-old Hirva suffered from an inherited fatal liver disorder; (Right)23-month old Ved's kidneys gave new lease of life to 17-year-old Anuj Gupta

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic has seen unprecedented grief across the world, there have been two instances of hope in these bleak times.

Two unique surgeries involving organ transplants have taken place in Gujarat and both involve two-year-old children, one who gave life to another with his kidney donation, and the other who survived an arduous surgery to get a liver transplant from her mother.

On June 10, two-year-old Hirva, suffering from an inherited fatal liver disorder, underwent a successful living donor liver transplant at CIMS hospital in Ahmedabad to become the youngest patient to undergo the treatment in Gujarat.

The child, whose father is an auto driver, had already lost her sibling to the same disease. However, Hirva pulled through, with help of crowd-funding facilitated by an NGO and a private hospital covering four-fifth of the surgery cost.

Dr Anand Khakhar, a liver transplant surgeon, took a part of the healthy liver from patient's mother and transplanted it into her, giving her new life. Hirva is recovering

well, said doctors. The surgery was also made complicated by the fact that while the child's blood group is O+ve, that of her mother is A+ve.



“The successful completion of Hirva’s surgery restores our faith in the dauntless human spirit to fight and succeed against any odds. It sends a message of hope in tough times

Dr Keyur Parikh, chairman, CIMS



“We had suspended transplants on March 30 but revoked it after two months. It is a feather in the cap of Gujarat doctors as they did transplants despite Covid patients in hospitals

Dr Vasanti Parnesh, head, NOTTO



“Ved’s parents are both pharmacists and are aware about the need for organ donation. So, when their child suffered brain haemorrhage and left him brain-dead, they agreed

Dr Divyesh Viroja, nephrologist

Voices

“Hirva’s mother donated a portion of her liver, and the rest was taken care of by our team of doctors. The successful completion of Hirva’s surgery restores our faith in the dauntless human spirit to fight and succeed against any odds. It also sends a much-needed message of hope and triumph during these tough times,” said Dr Keyur Parikh, Chairman of CIMS.

Dr Dhiren Shah, Transplant Team Director, said, “We have received significant help from the government of Gujarat in making this possible. We are thankful to its officials and Dr Ragvendra Dixit for giving us approval in the times of Covid-19.”

Rajkot-based child gives new lease of life

A 17-year-old from Ahmedabad, Anuj Gupta, suffering from kidney failure, received a new lease of life in the form of kidneys donated by parents of a braindead two-year-old, Ved Zinzuwadia, in Rajkot.

According to Dr Vineet Mishra, Director of the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC) in Ahmedabad, this is the first time that the braindead body of two-year-old child has been donated in the state. This has made Ved one of the youngest donors ever.

IKDRC, situated in the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital campus, was designated a semi-Covid facility in April and has since March 24 not conducted a single organ transplant owing to the pandemic.

Even as the Gujarat government gave doctors permission to begin transplants again in mid-May, the first transplant was carried early morning on May 31 after the patient, doctors and their equipment were transported to a private hospital in Rajkot.

Dr Pranjal Modi, transplant surgeon at IKDRC and the Convenor of Gujarat State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), conducted the surgery himself. Talking to Mirror, he said, “We performed en bloc kidney transplant on 17-year-old Anuj Gupta with kidneys procured from 23-month-old male child who became braindead due to spontaneous intracranial haemorrhage from brain tumor. This was the first transplant by IKDRC following the lockdown.”

Dr Divyesh Viroja, head of nephrology at the B T Savani Hospital in Rajkot that removed kidneys, said, “Ved’s parents are both pharmacists and are aware about the need for organ donation. So, when their child suffered from brain haemorrhage and left him braindead, they agreed for organ donation. The child was brought here for organ removal and the recipient was brought from Ahmedabad by IKDRC. The recipient was discharged within five days and is doing well now.”

Organ transports were suspended on March 30 due to the pandemic and resumed two months later.