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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Family of woman heart patient donates her pacemaker, eyes

TNN | Jun 22, 2020, 04.35 AM IST

Surat: In a rare donation of its kind, pacemaker was donated by the kin of an elderly woman who breathed her last on Monday. The pacemaker helps keep heart beat at normal speed.

Looking at the financial constraints that often recipients suffer, more so in times like the present Covid pandemic, the grief-stricken family of 73-year-old Meenakshi Joshina thought that donating the costly apparatus would be of immense help to a needy person who cannot afford to buy one.

“We were in shock but we decided to donate her organs so that it can help someone else. I knew that a pacemaker can also be donated hence I inquired with doctors who agreed to accept it,” said son-in-law Rohit Mehta, former president of Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI).

“Normally in organ donation a patient is required to be taken to the hospital but for pacemaker donation, the doctors collected it from our home along with her eyes,” Mehta added.

Joshina had undergone a heart surgery 12 years ago when the pacemaker was installed in her heart, said her son who runs an engineering workshop.

The battery of the device was replaced two years ago, he added.

“Donation of pacemaker is extremely rare and we are trying to create more awareness about it. Earlier donations trickled in once in around five to six years, but now we get one donation in two to three years. As the device is costly, this donation will be helpful for poor families,” said Dr Praful Shiroya, chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Choryasi branch.

Pacemaker can be used for long time, change in battery is required at regular interval. The receiver, however, is not finalized yet,” he said.