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# Rajasthan's kidney transplant pioneer dies of post-corona complications

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JAIPUR: Jaipur-based urologist, who was the first doctor to perform a kidney transplant in Rajasthan, died at 67. He tested positive for Covid-19 on June 17.

After a long battle with Covid, Dr S L Tolani, who tested negative for the virus, did not survive the onslaught of the virus on his organs. He is the first doctor from the state to die of complications arising from the virus infection.

An official of a private hospital where he was undergoing treatment, said, "He had recovered from Covid, but his organs were badly affected. After recovering, he was shifted to medical ICU, where he breathed his last."

Dr Tolani, who completed his medical studies from Agra in 1979, had pioneered renal transplant in the state. He had gone to Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital and trained in urology before he came to Jaipur.

"He established advanced urological practices in Rajasthan in the mid-80s. Here he performed the first kidney transplant in 1986. That was a pioneering work," said Dr Ashok Odhrani, managing trustee of the private hospital where Dr Tolani worked for decades.

Since then, he never looked back and performed around one lakh major and minor surgeries which also include about 700

kidney transplants, Dr Odhrani claimed.

Despite the virus scare, Dr Tolani attended to his patients during the pandemic and took safety measures such as wearing PPE kits. He developed Covid symptoms in mid-June. Following that, he quarantined himself at his home for a few days. When his condition did not improve, he was admitted to a hospital for treatment. His condition deteriorated, following which, he was put on ventilator support for 12 days.

His lung condition deteriorated. He was treated with anti-virals, Interleukin – 6 blockers, SLED, cytosorb therapy, etc. But he finally passed away after a month-long battle with Covid.

Dr Tolani's death has come as a shock to the fraternity. "He was a kind hearted surgeon who performed several surgeries free of cost for underprivileged and poor patients," said Dr M N Thareja, president, Indian Medical Association (Rajasthan).

Dr K P Singh, general surgeon, who worked with Dr Tolani for over 10 years, said, "In late 90s, a lot of patients having kidney problems were deprived of healthcare in rural areas. At that time, Dr Tolani organised outreach camps for patients. He was an endoscopic surgery pioneer. I have learnt from him a lot."

"He has contributed a lot to healthcare facilities. He performed the first kidney transplant in the mid-80s when patients were going to Delhi or Mumbai for transplants," said Dr Suraj Godara, consultant renal transplant of a private hospital.