

West Bengal: Accident victim's heart, kidneys, liver save four lives in year's third donation

TNN | Aug 18, 2020, 04.05 AM IST



KOLKATA: Deceased organ donation, which took a backseat amid the pandemic, received a shot in the arm on Monday when the family of a 31-year-old Bhatpara resident consented to donate his organs. All the organs have been retrieved and transplanted. This is the third deceased organ donation this year — the first two had taken place in January — in the state.

The donor, Sangram Bhattacharyya, met with an accident on August 14 in Kalyani. The medical representative was riding a bike when the motorcycle hit a speed-breaker. The helmet, which was not strapped it properly, came off and Bhattacharyya suffered severe head injuries. He was initially rushed to the state-run College of Medicine and JNM Hospital

and later shifted to Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals.

A SLOW YEAR SO FAR



The heart reaches Narayana Superspecialty Hospital



Donor | Bhatpara resident **Sangram Bhattacharyya.** The 31-year-old medical representative had received severe head injuries in an accident on August 14

RECIPIENTS

Heart | 17-year old girl at Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Howrah

Liver | 59-year-old man

at Apollo

Kidney | 29-year-old man at Apollo

Kidney | 42-year-old man at SSKM Hospital

15 | Deceased donations in 2018

11 | Deceased donations in 2019

► During the pandemic Medica Superspecialty hospital had conducted a heart transplant surgery in March, the organ was flown in from Patna

At Apollo, doctors found the patient had slipped into irreversible brain damage. They started counselling the family for the donation. Once they consented, the patient was declared brain-dead after informing ROTTO (Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization) on Sunday evening.

ROTTTO allocated the heart to Narayana Superspecialty Hospital Howrah, liver and one kidney to Apollo and the other to SSKM Hospital. Retrieving the organs started on Monday morning after hospitals finalized the recipients.

The heart was being transplanted on a 17-year-old girl from East Midnapur, the youngest deceased organ recipient in the state so far. The girl has been suffering from dilated cardiomyopathy and has been undergoing treatment at NSH, Howrah, for the last two years. This was the debut heart transplant for the Howrah facility.

“Thanks to the swift coordination and cooperation from the health department, ROTTO and SOTTO. The heart reached our hospital at 6.06pm via a 13km green corridor,” said R Venkatesh, regional director (east), Narayana Health.

Hunting for the prospective recipients was not an easy job during the pandemic. For example, Apollo had selected a patient

from Howrah as its liver recipient as his name was first in the registry. But the patient refused to undergo the surgery during this pandemic. With ROTTO's permission, the hospital then zeroed in on a 59-year-old male patient from Agartala, who flew into the city on Sunday evening for the transplant.

“Getting a recipient was challenging since many patients are averse to visiting hospitals during the pandemic. The recipient, as well as the whole transplant team, had to undergo Covid test to minimize chances of infection. The transplant surgery is expected to get over only after midnight,” said Mahesh Goenka, director of Institute of Gastro Sciences at Apollo.

The kidneys were being transplanted on a 29-year-old male patient at Apollo and a 42-year old patient at SSKM Hospital. “The pandemic had put a brake on the organ donation movement. We hope the movement will start rolling again,” said Manimay Banerjee, director ROTTO.