

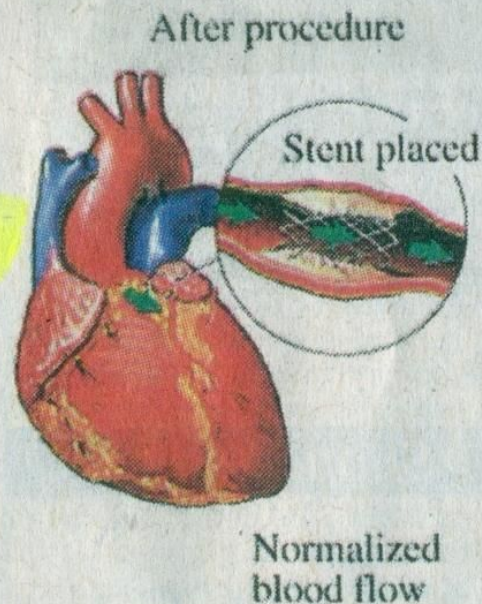
Rare angioplasty telecast live

The operation was shown at the National Interventional Cardiology Meet India

Somita Pal

Snehashish Sharma (name changed), 45, was suffering from 100% artery blockage. He was operated for angioplasty at Lilavati hospital on Saturday. The operation was relayed live at the National Interventional Cardiology Meet India at Taj Lands, Bandra. The doctors who operated on Sharma went for angioplasty rather than a bypass surgery as he had suffered a brain stroke two years back and was a high risk patient for bypass.

"He had a history of chest pain for the past two years. We wanted to showcase this case study at the interventional cardiologists meet as performing angioplasty on a person having 100% artery block-



age is rare," said Dr Samuel Mathew K, one of the doctors who performed the surgery.

"Sharma had 100% blockage in one artery and 80% in the second. We first cleared the 80% blockage and then went for the 100% as reaching the

HEART SURGERY

- ▶ Bypass surgery is a major procedure. Typically the surgeon has to saw through the breast bone and stop the heart while the patient is put on a bypass machine
- ▶ Patients who have isolated blockages go for stents that do not involve all three major blood vessels or the main blood vessels

right lumen was a challenge. This was to create more awareness on angioplasty," said Dr Mathew.

Speaking at the conference, Dr Mathew said, "The peak usage of stents (a wire metal mesh tube used to prop open

an artery during angioplasty) has come. While we have seen stent usage increasing, doing coronary surgery has gone down." However, Dr Mathew said these procedures are not necessarily at war now because they are used to treat different types of patients.

The doctors in the conference also pointed at the rising number of people getting heart diseases at the age of 30. "Earlier, the age group of people getting heart disease was 45 plus. But now we are seeing a rise in number of heart disease cases in those who are in their 30s. The major reason is the changing lifestyle and ignorance about the symptoms," said Dr Ajith Menon, interventional cardiologist, Lilavati hospital.