

ing head downstairs. The family rushed down and



it is difficult to catch a cat, let alone kill it."

Docs give 3-month-old a shot at survival

Boy was born with defect in food pipe. After December surgery he can now be fed in the natural way

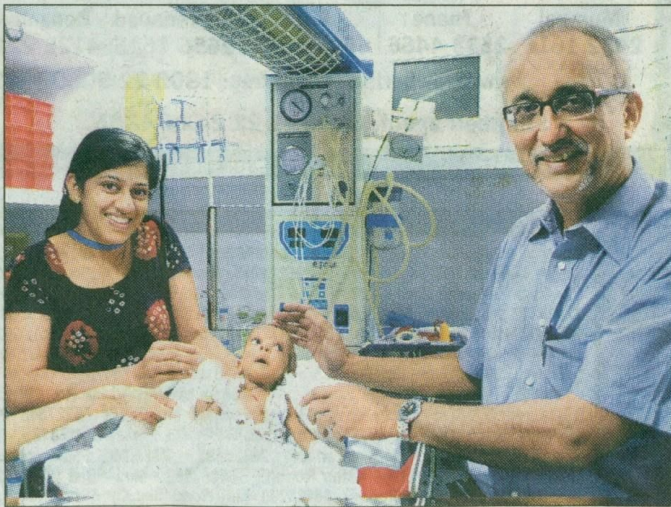
SANTOSH ANDHALE

It's been three months since he was born, but it's only now that he can be fed properly. In fact, his parents haven't even named him as yet.

Born to Mugdha Dave and her husband in Baroda, the child had oesophagal atresia – a congenital disease in which the food pipe is not fully developed, and as result food and saliva cannot pass into the stomach. The life-threatening disease affects in every 15,000 live births.

Mugdha said that before delivery all that the doctors could tell her was that the baby had a defect in the stomach but the problem wasn't identified.

She said that doctors at the Baroda hospital, where she de-



The elated mother, Mugdha Dave, with her baby and Dr Santosh Karmarkar who performed the surgery

livered her son, made a small perforation in the child's stomach to supply nutrients to the stomach. But only sur-

gery could correct the defect permanently.

The 32-year-old mother, who lives in Navi Mumbai,

said though the child remained in hospital for 40 days after birth, the doctors could not correct the condition, which is when the family decided to bring him to Mumbai.

Dr Santosh Karmarkar, the paediatric surgeon at Bandra's Lilavati Hospital, said the child's food pipe needed to be reconstructed and the operation was done on December 22, when doctors created the missing sections of the food pipe using tissue from the stomach.

"The baby has started feeding in the natural way after the surgery. We have closed the hole that was made in the stomach for artificial feeding. He is doing well and can be discharged," said Dr Karmarkar.

Mugdha is happy that her

baby can finally be fed like other newborns. "The last three months have been very painful for me as I couldn't feed my son. In Baroda, he lost a lot of weight," she said.

Dr Karmarkar said, "When the child was admitted to the hospital, his weight was around 1.6 kg. He has gained weight since the surgery and now weighs three kilograms.

Paediatric surgeon Dr Rajiv Redkar, Dr Ashok Mathure, anaesthetist Dr Satish Kulkarni, paediatrician Dr Deepak Ugra, intensivist Dr Hasmukh Gala were part of the team that helped in the surgery."

OE SOPHAGAL ATRESIA

It is a disorder in which the oesophagus does not develop properly. It is a congenital defect, meaning it occurs before birth.

these roads up to 85 decibels and will not let them exceed 70 decibels. Without the barriers, noise levels can go to 100 decibels sometimes."

Sumaira Abdulali, president of Awaz foundation, said, "It's a good move by MMRDA. This barrier can have a significant impact on noise pollution."

If the project is successful, the next road to get similar noise barriers will be Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road and Santacruz-Chembur Link Road. Also, a few roads in other areas of South Mumbai and the western suburbs are being considered for the project

NOISE POLLUTION AFFECTS THOSE LIVING ALONG ROADS:

1. Long term exposure could lead to hearing loss.
2. Exposure to moderately high (eg above 70 decibels) during a single eight-hour period causes a statistical rise in blood pressure.
3. High noise levels have the most significant impact on animal life.

THE GOVT CIRCULAR

The State govt had issued a circular to MMRDA, MSRDC and PWD on December 3, 2008, asking them to implement noise abatement measures to reduce noise from roads. The noise barriers are a must on roads where distance between traffic and buildings is less than 30 metres.