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## Free orthopaedic surgery at Lilavati

**DNA Correspondent**

For numerous poor parents travelling from across the country to be in Mumbai this weekend, this was perhaps their only chance to give their children a 'normal' life. And they had waited for this opportunity for almost a year.

Dr Ashok Johari, city's leading paediatric orthopaedic, first announced his free children's orthopaedic corrective surgery camp nine years ago.

"We have received over 300 calls from parents across the country this year, and we will have to turn down some unfortunately," he said. The camp will be organised over the next weekend at Lilavati Hospital. Johari and a team of 50 doctors, including paediatric orthopaedics, anaesthetists, occupational therapists, prosthetic therapists,

physiotherapists, and paediatric neurologists will diagnose hundreds of patients. The doctors will perform 150 free surgeries. Children with congenital defects, including cerebral palsy, club-foot, spinal deformity, polio, deformity of the hips and knees will be tested and offered free treatment.

"Many parents do not know what to do when they find out that their child has a congenital defect. In fact, many do not know that there is a specialised paediatric orthopaedic for such problems," said Johari.

The doctor has performed rare and difficult surgeries free of cost in the camp, arranged by The Child Foundation, an NGO that he is a part of. Six operation theatres and 60 beds have been booked at Lilavati. Accommodation and food will be provided free to relatives of patients.