

# Lilavati surgeries shown live at international doctors' conference

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**A**T the 4th Asian Interventional Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference at Bangkok on Tuesday, over 1,500 cardiologists from across the globe witnessed live, on screen, two surgeries being performed at Bandra's Lilavati Hospital.

A team of cardiologists from Lilavati hospital along with the pioneer of

angioplasty in India, Dr Samuel Mathew, performed two complex surgeries involving multiple blockages with low heart function as part of a programme for exchange of expertise.

One case was of a 47-year-old woman who had poor heart function and occlusion of left anterior descending (LAD) artery and was suffering from se-

vere disease circumflex while the other involved a 78-year-old man with poor heart function.

"If these heart blockages are not attended to, heart functions go down. It is very important to restore the blood flow. In this treatment, blockage is crossed with a flexible wire and is opened up with a balloon and a stent coated with drugs is fitted. This

reduces the incidence of blockage," said Dr Anil Sharma, interventional cardiologist at Lilavati Hospital.

Of late the competence and skill displayed by Indian doctors is being acknowledged and accepted worldwide. Indian doctors are no more at the receiving end during conferences. The international conference committee with

3,500 doctors on board across the globe selected this Indian centre for live transmissions along with other eight to nine centres from both developing and developed countries.

However, India is not just becoming the new hub of talent, but, doctors point out, the incidence of complexities among patients in India is also increasing. "Younger generation is in-

Part of programme for exchange of expertise, operations included complex cases with multiple blockages and low heart function

creasingly falling prey to complex heart problems. The reason being stress, lack of exercise and poor dietary patterns. Patients come with small and diffusely diseased arteries," said Dr Samuel Mathew, cardiologist from Lilavati Hospital.

"High incidence of diabetes also leads to complex cardiovascular diseases. Almost one third of the patients we see are below the age of 45, which was not true a decade ago," added Dr Sharma.