

# Lilavati starts liver transplant service again

SATYAJIT DESAI



**B Vishwakarma was one of the patients who got a new liver**

## Hospital appoints renowned transplant surgeon from Delhi, who performs two operations

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**L**ilavati Hospital & Research Centre has started offering liver transplant services after a gap of eight years. The hospital, which was struggling to get an expert and a good team, recently appointed Dr Naimish Mehta, a renowned transplant surgeon who is attached to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

Last month Dr Mehta and his team flew to Mumbai to carry out two

transplants – one live, meaning both the donor and receiver were alive, and one from a brain-dead person.

In the live case, a daughter donated part of her liver to her father, who is now doing well.

In the other case, liver was taken from a brain-dead person and given to a 43-year-old rickshaw driver who had cirrhosis. On April 24 doctors at the hospital declared brain dead a 54-year-old woman who had had a haemorrhage. The family agreed to donate all her organs.

Balkrishna Vishwakarma was in urgent need of a liver. However, no

one in his family proved a match. Vishwakarma registered his name with Lilavati in January for cadaver transplant. On April 24 he was out with his wife when he got a call from the Lilavati to come urgently. The two went to the hospital in the rickshaw and he was admitted.

"It is unbelievable that I got a cadaver liver within a few months. God saved my life," Vishwakarma said after the transplant.

He said when he first came to Lilavati, doctors told him they would subsidise the cost of the operation. They later waived the entire fee.

"I was diagnosed with cirrhosis three years ago," Vishwakarma said. "I was hardly driving the rickshaw. My wife was running the house. She worked as a maid. We don't have children, my parents are dead, and my wife's blood group is different. It was a hopeless situation. I told her I would die soon."

"For us saving the patient's life was important. His economic background was not good but that didn't stop us from going ahead with the transplant. We did not want to wait," said Ajay Kumar Pande, vice president of the hospital.