

City's cardiac patient gets new lease of life at Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital

■ Staff Reporter

EXPERT cardiologists of Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai and the air lifting facility saved the life of a city-based businessman.

V K Bhandari, 60, a local businessman was air-lifted to Mumbai for immediate and timely life-saving treatment as he developed complications after suffering from a severe cardiac arrest on December 25.

Earlier, he was taken to a local hospital for emergency treatment. But the cardiac attack was so severe that it caused a rare complication as a portion of the ventricular septum got burnt making a hole.

A life threatening complication, 'a post myocardial infarction ventricular septal defect', was developed. Such complication occurs only in one per cent cases of the patients who suffer heart attack.

Normally such condition creates severe damage in the patient's hemodynamic status causing drop in blood pressure, oxygenation and heart failure.

Similar were the effects in Bhandari's case. Doctors, treating him, informed his son that there is little they can do in such life threat-

ening complication and the patient must be shifted to a higher centre for advanced life saving treatment facilities.

Reacting to the situation, Bhandari's son decided to surf the internet for the best facilities and quickest method of transportation and learnt about Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai that offered the needed facilities. As time was running out only way the patient could be transferred was by air.

Lilavati Hospital helped him locate an air ambulance service which can air lift the patient from Jabalpur. The air-ambulance was made available but the specialist anaesthetist was needed.

The patient was sinking and he had to be stable enough for the four hour flight to Mumbai.

Although an expert anaesthetist was flown from the Fortis Hospital, Delhi to Jabalpur.

As the city has no night landing facility at Dumna airport, Bhandari could only be airlifted during the day time. Next day, on December 27, the air ambulance left from Mumbai in the early hours to reach Jabalpur at 10 am. Bhandari was shifted to the airport with all life

support systems. It was a long flight to Mumbai when blood pressure dropped to below normal and ECG become unstable but with timely treatment by the experts the patient reached Mumbai at 2 pm and was immediately rushed to Lilavati Hospital ICU.

At the hospital, his condition was regularly evaluated by a team of cardiologist, intensivists and was quickly moved in to the cath lab where emergency angiography was done to know the size of VSD, heart function.

It was found that he also had critical blocks in his coronary arteries and would require bypass surgery in addition to VSD repair.

This high risk surgery of post MI VSD repair by Dacron patch with coronary artery bypass surgery was conducted on December 28, that lasted for eight hours.

After the surgery, the patient was shifted to ICU again where he was kept for another five days and recovered gradually.

This was possible due to the application of new mode of transport and the use of best facilities at Lilavati Hospital and a precious life could be saved.

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