

Press Release

Fortis Malar Hospital saves young life bitten by poisonous snake

In an effort to save the life of a young man DOCTORS at Fortis Malar use technology in a new and ground –breaking manner.

Nellore, 25th July 2013: Reflecting its commitment to saving and enriching lives, Fortis Malar Hospital has gone beyond the usual methodology in treating snake-bite to save a patient from Nellore district.

A team of experts from Fortis Malar Hospital performed a jaw dropping operation, consisting of Dr Praveen Agarwal – Senior Consultant Physician, Dr Venkateswara Prasanna – Consultant Neurosurgeon, Dr Suresh Rao K G – HOD (Cardiac Critical Care & Anesthesia) and Dr. Sowrangshu Kumar Chowdhury, Senior Consultant Cardio Thoracic Surgery through an innovative approach to save snake bitten patient whose chances of survival was continuously retreating.

Mr. Ramesh, a 23-years-old, local of Andhra Pradesh, was an energetic person helping his father in agriculture. Unfortunately he became a victim of Russell’s viper gnaw 4 times continuously and subsequently maximum poison was injected into his body. Russell’s viper venom is Hemotoxin, which cause hemolysis or destruction of red blood cells.

His initial treatments in the local hospitals failed miserably and by the time Ramesh was brought to Fortis Malar Hospital, he had slipped into coma and suffered brain hemorrhage. His lung function decreased due to blood in the lung (hemorrhage in the lung) and Oxygen saturation dropped to the lowest at 30%. At this level of low saturation it is most likely that the patient does not survive over an hour or two.

At this point of time, in its first, the doctors at Fortis Malar, Chennai used ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation) technology to save this dying patient. This approach proved to be effective and the patient began recovering in a quick span of time. His Oxygen saturation immediately came to 100% and further he significantly improved and within 2 days he was out of ECMO. After 24 hrs he was out of ventilator and started to breathe on his own.

“He was initially taken to a ‘mantrik’ for treatment, where the time was wasted, but after he lost consciousness and his limbs swelled, Ramesh’s father decided to take him to a hospital in Nellore where he was given first-aid and anti-venom,” explained **Dr KG Suresh Rao, Head of Cardiac Critical Care and Anesthesia at Fortis Malar Hospitals.**

Though brain hemorrhage led to difficulty in speech and balance, his condition was improving and **Dr Venkateswara Prasanna – Consultant Neurosurgeon** suggested that there was no need for brain surgery and that in a matter of time Ramesh should recover.

Today Ramesh is a happy man, he and his family are thankful to the Almighty. “I have got a new lease of life and cannot express my gratitude in words to the doctors at Fortis Malar Hospitals. I thank them wholeheartedly for their support and care showered on me and my family” said Ramesh.

About ECMO:

In intensive care medicine, **extracorporeal membrane oxygenation** (ECMO) is an extracorporeal technique of providing both cardiac and respiratory support oxygen to patients whose heart and lungs are so severely diseased or damaged that they can no longer serve their function. In other words it is a treatment that uses a pump to circulate blood through an artificial lung back into the bloodstream of patient whose heart and lung function is failing or minimal.

About Fortis Healthcare Limited

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