

The Rising Nepal

NATIONAL DAILY

Page 8

NATION

Page 3



Tributes to
conservation
heroes

WORLD

Page 5



Indian police on
Bangalore
patrol

BUSINESS

Page 2



iPhone
manufa
by Appl

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Liver transplant surgery on Nepali boy successful

■ By A Staff Reporter

Kathmandu, July 8

Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi announced the successful outcome of the liver transplant surgery carried out on 14-year-old Nepalese boy Anil Lamsal.

Anil was suffering from Wilson's Disease, a genetic condition that impairs copper metabolism in the body and leads to progressive liver failure. The surgery marks another important achievement for Indraprastha Apollo Hospital's transplant programme, which has numerous credits to its name.

A healthy and visibly happy Anil returned to Nepal after a span of four months with a team of doctors who carried out the surgery. The doctors, wanting to ensure Anil's complete recovery, flew with him to hand him over to his local doctors for further follow up treatment and

care.

The surgery involved a donor of the liver; in this case it was Anil's mother, to donate a part of her liver. A living donor donates a section of liver for transplant, and since the liver can regenerate itself to some extent, the donor has a fully functioning liver in two weeks, said Dr. Anupam Sibal, Director Medical Services and Sr. Consultant, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals.

Speaking at a press meet organised here today, he said that such surgeries usually take 10 to 12 hours and require a large amount of transfused blood. The surgical team consisted of 30 people including four senior surgeons, four assistant surgeons, two anaesthetists, two paediatric intensivists, two paediatric gastroenterologists, and support staff from nursing, blood bank and

technicians.

Dr. Sibal said, "We are very happy to treat Anil and our hospital is very keen to provide such facilities in the future for people of Nepal."

Anil offered thanks to Dr. Sibal and the team giving him new life. He was the first patient of Nepal to undergo such operation.

The hospital has used innovative new methods to greatly reduce the cost of liver transplants, which costs around Rs. 2 million, a noticeable decrease from earlier costs.

Dr. Sibal, said, "Wilson's Disease is the third most common cause of liver failure in children and one in every 30,000 children suffers from it. While this condition can be treated with medicines in most cases, Anil needed an emergency liver transplant because the disease had been diagnosed late and caused an irreversible liver damage."