

15-month-old with jaundice gets new liver

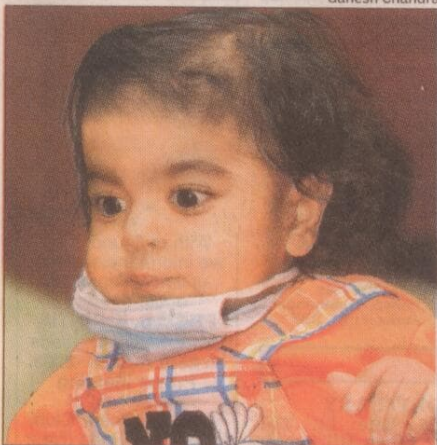
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For 15-month-old Nihal Upadhayay's parents it is nothing less than a miracle. Nihal, who was diagnosed with jaundice soon after his birth, underwent a liver transplant in July 2008. Doctors at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital say that they have never operated on such a small baby.

Nihal was taken to Apollo Hospital in April 2007 in a critical condition. "His liver biopsy showed he was suffering from idiopathic neonatal hepatitis. It was a big challenge for us as he was very weak and because of jaundice and progressive liver disease was unable to gain weight. We had to work really hard in terms of managing his condition as well as increasing his weight," said Dr Anupam Sibal, group medical director and senior consultant paediatrics, Indraprastha Apollo.

For Navneeta Upadhayay, Nihal's mother, it was the most traumatic experience. "I conceived Nihal after undergoing fertility treatment for nearly two years. And when doctors

Ganesh Chandra



PATH TO RECOVERY: Nihal is the youngest patient to be operated at Apollo Hospital

in Assam, where Nihal was born, told me that he has jaundice I was scared. But doctors said it is common and would subside. But when it continued for months, we got worried and took him to a hospital in Kolkata. But then we decided to bring him to Delhi as his condition was constantly deteriorating," said Navneeta.

With the help of Apollo Hospital, which did the medical treatment free of cost, Nihal underwent transplant surgery on July 22, 2008. "His aunt donated the liver as his mother couldn't due to medical reasons. We operated both Nihal and Nandani (Nihal's aunt) simultaneously in two operation theatres. It was a complicated surgery as the baby was really young and weighed just 6 kgs," said Dr Subhash Gupta, senior consultant liver transplant, Indraprastha Apollo.

According to the doctors at Apollo, Nihal is doing fine but has to be on drugs for whole life. His parents will have to spend Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 per month on his treatment. But they are not complaining.

toireporter@timesgroup.com

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