



2 kids back from India after surgery

BY CH AAMER WAQAS

LAHORE - Two children Usman Shehzad and Hamza Akhtar returned home Monday from India after successful segmental liver transplant at a private hospital in New Delhi.

These children were suffering from a rare Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFIC), which severely affects the liver and the bile. This is yet another disease, which is caused by cousin-marriage.

Under the care of Apollo's medical director Dr Anupam Sibal, Hamza went through a difficult liver transplant. During the surgery, doctors took 30 per cent of his mother's liver and transplanted it into Hamza.

The PFIC is a genetic disease by which children, within a year of their birth, suffer from jaundice. From that time their liver starts to deteriorate. Hamza's eyes had become yellow and he itched constantly.

The only treatment was a liver transplant. "A liver when divided into half has eight segments. Segments 2, 3 and 4 of the left side of Hamza's mother's liver will be transplanted. The liver is the only organ in the human body, which can regrow within 6-12 weeks. So through ultra-sound tests on Hamza's mother, pre-surgery and post-surgery, growth of his

mother's liver was also observed," told Dr Sibal.

Dr Anupem told that the children needed post-operative care and they were much better now.

Director Paediatric Hepatology Department of the Children Hospital Dr Huma Arshad Cheema, while talking to the mediemen at the Allama Iqbal International Airport, said she had made hectic efforts to make this transplantation successful after coordination with the Indian doctors - Dr M R Rajsekar and Dr Anupam Sibal, who were also accompanying the children.

So far three other children - Tayyab and Safi Khan (treated on donation money) from India and Shamsheer in the USA - have been treated for the PFIC. "About 35 more patients are waiting for this treatment, while adults are also contacting us for the liver operations," said Dr. Cheema, while adding that it was after the recent d_tente with India that patients' transfer and treatment had been possible.

HEALTH-CARE PROJECTS

Punjab Minister Health, Dr Tahir Ali Javed said the provincial government had launched many projects for the health-care facilities for mothers, children and newborns to achieve the desirable goals, said a press release on Monday.