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Docs discuss jaundice in children

HT Correspondent
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"If a child continues to suffer from jaundice for more than two weeks, the patient should be taken to the doctor immediately," expressed leading doctors during the two-day National Paediatric Gastroenterology Midterm Conference, which commenced here today.

The conference is the first ever to be held in the state. More than 250 delegates from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of

NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY CONFERENCE

and SKIMS Srinagar.

During the day, doctors with expertise in paediatric gastroenterology discussed the latest information regarding the diagnostic and management aspects of the ailments of the stomach, intestines, liver, etc., in children.

Earlier, before the start of the first session of the conference, Director Medical Services, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, Dr Anupam Sibal said, "People should not take jaundice among children lightly. They should consult doctors immediately if jaundice is not cured even after 14 days."

Dr Sibal, who originally belongs to Kashmir, said, "Many times newborns suffer from the

disease and it needs to be diagnosed at an earliest. In some cases, it is diagnosed that the liver has no connection with intestines, so an operation is required immediately. Though the surgery is expensive, it is cheap if one compares it with other countries of the world."

He said if the operation was conducted within 50 to 60 days of birth, the success rate was 70 per cent and if it is conducted after 90 days, the success rate was reduced to 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

"Liver re-grows. Even if one or two of the total of eight segments of the liver are diseased, they can be replaced if someone from the family donates them,"

he said.

"The first operation of the kind was conducted in Apollo Hospital in India in November 1998 and since then, 90 similar operations have been conducted so far," highlighted Dr Sibal, adding, "Apollo has recently tied up with the local Maharishi Dayanand Hospital, Rehari, where doctors of Apollo New Delhi are available for consultations once a month. If the response is good, doctors would be made available for consultations twice a month."

Talking about the overall performance of doctors here, Dr Sibal said, "Despite the pressure, doctors in Jammu and Kashmir are performing excellently."

The conference has been organised by the upcoming paediatricians, including Dr G.S. Saini, Dr S.S. Slathia and Dr Ravinder Kumar Gupta.

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