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Thalassaemia patient recovers after stem cell treatment

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Kolkata, Mar 6: A four year-old boy suffering from thalassaemia has recovered after being injected with his sister's cord blood. The new development has raised hopes for the treatment mode using stem-cell transplant.

Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder.

Due to the disease, the white blood cell count of Dikshit Gowda, hailing from Bangalore, has dropped to zero. He was admitted to the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Cancer Research Institute here on February 7.

"Initially, the bone marrow of Gowda was destroyed when he was treated for 15 days using high dose of chemotherapy," its Director Ashis Mukherjee said.

"Thereafter, stem cells taken from his little sister's cord blood, preserved at the Cryo Stem Cell Institute in Bangalore, were injected into him on February 28," he said.

"He is doing well now though he will be kept under observation for at least a month," Mukherjee said.

"This is the first stem-cell transplant in eastern India and it will be first of its kind in the country using mismatch cord blood," he said.

The boy's white blood cell count was now rising and he could be released in six weeks "if everything goes well. It gives us hope that the treatment mode was successful."

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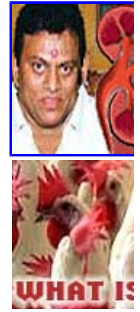
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