

Draining 2 litres of blood saves clotting disorder patient

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The doctors at Lilavati Hospital saved the life of a 37-year-old woman suffering from a rare and nearly fatal blood clotting disorder called 'intra-vascular coagulation' by removing two litres of blood from her abdominal cavity.

The woman is a homemaker and had arrived in the casualty ward with difficulty in breathing and dizziness along with abdominal pain. She had suffered a haemorrhage in the ovarian cyst as well the anterior abdominal wall, resulting in the accumulation of blood.

Four years ago, the patient had undergone an aortic valve replacement surgery and was recommended an anticoagulant medication regimen. However, she failed to monitor her international normalised ratio (INR) – how long it takes for blood to clot. A team of doctors, led by Dr Rekha Agrawal, a senior honorary consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, was quick to diagnose nearly fatal blood clotting disorder.

Dr Agrawal explained, "When one gets injured, clotting factors play a significant role in stopping the bleeding. These clotting factors are consumed rapidly if there is bleeding inside the body. All the clotting factors in the patient were fully utilised and her blood had become so thin that any test or procedure could result in bleeding from the puncture site of her body."

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A complex process

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■ Her bleeding ovary, tube were excised; abdomen was cleared of all blood

■ Her clotting profile returned to normal within 48 hours

tered eight to 10 fresh frozen plasma (packed blood cells) units, platelet infusions and Nova 7 coagulants for over six hours. This brought her blood levels to a safe range for laparoscopic surgery, which was conducted under an expert anaesthetic team. Her bleeding ovary and tube were excised and the abdomen was cleared of all blood, following which her clotting profile returned to normal within 48 hours.

"The complex nature of intra-abdominal bleeding requires prompt action and exceptional skill and abundant resources all of which were present at the hospital," said Dr Niraj Uttamani, chief operating officer at Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre. Surgical techniques played a pivotal role in ensuring the patient's survival, the doctor added.

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