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KGMU to sign MoUs with med institutes for cadaveric organ donation

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LUCKNOW: Cadaveric organ donation in Lucknow is set to get a boost after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about it in 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday. The PM had mentioned how a liver retrieved in Lucknow saved the life of a person in Delhi recently.

The liver was retrieved by the cadaveric transplant team at King George's Medical University (KGMU) which collaborated with Lucknow Police to create a green corridor for speedy transportation of the organ.

"We provided the liver to GB Pant Institute of Medical Sciences and Research for a patient who found mention in the PM's speech," KGMU vice chancellor Prof Ravi Kant confirmed.

He added that the 'appreciation' has filled the cadaveric organ transplant team with hope. The medical university is also in the process of signing memorandums of understanding (MoU) to exchange organs extracted from brain-dead persons with important medical centers including GB Pant Institute of Medical Sciences and Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI).

In return, patients heading to KGMU for conditions requiring transplant would be attended to by the benefitting institutes. The cost of donor surgery would be borne by the patient. "There is a long list of patients needing renal or hepatic (liver) transplant and the demand is sure to increase considering the high burden of diseases requiring transplant," the VC said.

According to the proposed MoU, KGMU would give preference to SGPGIMS because of proximity to KGMU. However, in case SGPGI doesn't respond, others would be contacted. GB Pant Medical Institute has agreed to undertake a short training programme for doctors and staff at KGMU so that the institute is able to develop the facility in-house.

The head of gastro surgery department, Dr Abhijeet Chandra, who is coordinating the cadaveric transplant programme, said KGMU was doing well with meagre resources.

"With the current resources, our team manages to retrieve organs of one patient in a month but if infrastructure is improved, we will be able to undertake two transplant retrieval surgeries in a week comfortably," he said.

So far, KGMU has retrieved organs from 16 brain-dead patients. This includes 12 livers, 32 kidneys and 32 corneas.

Experts feel KGMU's potential for cadaveric transplant was higher considering that its trauma centre receives at least one brain-dead patient every day.