

Non-surgical treatment for liver cancer in KMCH

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COIMBATORE Nov. 8: Perhaps for the first time in south India, a novel non-surgical procedure called "Chemo-embolism" has been successfully tried in Kovai Medical Centre and hospital for treatment of the Cancer of the Liver..

The credit for introducing this innovative technique goes to Dr. Mathew Cherian, Interventional Radiologist.

According to Dr. Cherian, cancer of the liver is very common in India and other Asian countries. It can be cured, if detected early, that is, when the size of the tumour is less than two c.m. But unfortunately, he points out that most people report to the hospital, when the size of the tumour is more than 8 c.m. He said that tho-

ugh surgery is the only option till now, the results are not always good and large percentage of patients with cancer of the liver, are not accepted for surgery for fear of various complications..

But he pointed out that in countries like Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, where liver cancer is common, interventional radiologists have shown good results by injecting anti-cancer drug, along with a liquid agent, which will block blood vessels, feeding the tumour. While stoppage of blood flow stops effectively further growth of the tumour, the anti-cancer drug, which remains in constant contact with the tumour for several weeks, gradually shrinks the size of the tumour. The anti-cancer drug used is considered safe, since it does not come

into contact with any other tissue and hence no or negligible side-effect..

Dr. Mathew cherian, who has performed several such procedures for blocking blood vessels in different parts of the body, tried this new technique for the first time in south India on a 70 year old patient, with a cancer of the liver, on whom surgery cannot be done. The results are quite satisfactory.

Dr. Cherian stated that this procedure was possible only in high tech hospitals like K.M.C.H., since it requires the support services of team of experts including cancer experts, Gastroenterologists and liver surgeons.

Dr. Dharmalingam, gastro-enterologist, who has several years of experience in U.S.A, said that he

was happy that this new procedure, which is available in U.S.A., has been successfully introduced at Kovai medicals.

Dr. Ramanathan Jayaraman, cancer specialist, said that the new procedure brings hope to a large number of patients with complaints of the cancer of the liver.

Dr. John Thanakumar, paparscopic surgeon, said that chemo-embolisation has now been clinically demonstrated as an effective treatment for non-operable cancer.

Dr. Nalla Palanisami, chairman, KMCH, said that he was happy that his centre has now become the pioneer in the frontiers of Cardiology, Cardiac surgery, interventional radiology, laparoscopic surgery and neuro-surgery in India.