

Pulled back from brink

STATE-OF-THE-ART SURGERY

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Pulled back from brink of death

Nine-year-old Dhanalakshmi is back in school today, having made a remarkable recovery from an operation to correct an aneurysm in the brain.

K.V. Prasad

COIMBATORE: Everything appeared normal till one evening last month. Minutes after she returned home from school, Dhanalakshmi fell unconscious and was rushed to hospital, where she woke up with a severe headache.

A computerised tomography (CT) scan revealed bleeding in the brain. An angiogram was then performed at Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital to detect

the severity of the problem. Images of the brain revealed a three mm aneurysm (ballooning) in a blood vessel on the left side of the brain. (An aneurysm turns the blood vessel thin and can cause a fatal rupture).

A four-member team led by Interventional Radiologist, Mathew Cherian, set to work on the complicated case.

It opted for the latest treatment called endovascular coiling — wherein thin platinum wires are used to pack the aneurysm.

The intervention took the same route as the angiogram — through a blood vessel in the thigh.

This procedure, practised in only seven centres in the country, helps avoid opening up the skull.

As the surgery got under way, the team was in for a shock -- the aneurysm was six mm — double what the angiogram had revealed. Besides, a slight haemorrhage was also detected.

However, the doctors took it in their stride, using seven



Dhanalakshmi... all smiles 48 hours after the surgery.

platinum coils to pack the affected area. The surgery was a success, with the girl making a remarkable recovery. A magnetic resonance imaging done a month after the procedure showed no trace of the problem, the hospital said.

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