

MEDICAL DIGEST

Surgery for fistula

Doctors at the Kovai Medical Center and Hospital in the city have plugged the leaking of blood into an intestine of an 80-year old woman.

The blood was coming from a spot where a surgery had been done earlier to correct aneurysm (an abnormal bulging of a blood vessel),

Interventional Radiologist at the hospital Mathew Cherian, who headed the three-member team of doctors, said in a press release. Interventional Radiologist Pankaj Mehta and Vascular Surgeon

Bhubaneswhwaran were the other members of the team.

The patient, Janaki, had undergone the aneurysm correction surgery eight years ago. She led a normal life after the procedure but became sick

with very low blood pressure later. She required several units of blood to be transfused before she could be stabilised. It was obvious that Janaki was bleeding profusely into the intestine, Dr. Cherian said.

A computed tomography scan showed leaking of blood into the intestine from the site of the previous surgery where the aneurysm was repaired. The release said this condition was called aorto-enteric fistula. It was extremely dangerous and most often fatal.

The only way one could treat this was to place a very sophisticated tubular mesh across the leak in the blood vessel.

The procedure was called endovascular stent grafting. The vascular surgeon made a small incision in the blood vessel in the thigh and the interventional radiologist passed the stent graft through it to the leak spot.