

## Chemo embolisation for liver cancer treatment

From Our Special Correspondent

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A new procedure known as "Chemo Embolisation" for treatment of liver cancer which is widely adopted in countries such as Japan, Korea and Hong Kong and introduced now in the Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital promises to be a boon for cancer patients, many of whom in old age cannot undergo surgery.

According to Dr. Mathew Cherian, Interventional Radiologist, who has introduced this new procedure, chemo embolisation is the most effective and result-oriented treatment of large sized tumours for which surgery is neither good nor possible.

Cancer in the liver is a very common ailment in India and other Asian countries. It can be cured, however, if detected in the early stages when the tumour is less than 2 cm. Unfortunately, more than 80 per cent of the patients come up for treatment only when the size of the tumour is more than 8 cm.

In Japan, Korea and Hong Kong where such liver cancer is common, interventional radiologists inject anti-cancer drug along with a liquid agent to block the blood vessels directly into the vessels supplying the tumour. This procedure leaves very little side effect since the drug does not come into contact with other tissues. Since the blood vessels are blocked anti-cancer drug remains in contact with the tumour area for

several weeks reducing the size of the tumour.

Dr. Mathew Cherian recently performed this procedure on a 70 year old patient at the Kovai Medical Center with encouraging results.

Dr. Mathew Cherian said that the adoption of this new procedure for treating patients with cancer in the liver was possible because of the detailed discussions he had had with experienced radiologists in the field in Singapore.

Dr. Dharmalingam, Gastroenterologist said that this new method of treatment would be a boon to liver cancer patients.

Dr. John Thanakumar, consultant Surgeon of the KMCH said that this procedure would facilitate surgical treatment of the initially inoperable cases.