

Boy nearly loses eye as he enacts Mahabharat scene with brother

dna correspondent @dna

Nearly half of his face bandaged, Sanju Chikalia's explanation is simple. He and his brother wanted to enact a war scene shown in a TV programme. For his family and doctors, the seven-year-old has narrowly escaped a permanent disability. The boy is currently recuperating at Nanavati Hospital following a surgery on his right eye.

Dr Jimit Chodhari, who operated upon Sanju, said the child and his brother were inspired by Mahabharat serial and wanted to imitate a Pandavas-vs-Kauravas battle scene. The duo improvised bows and arrows from broomsticks and took position, little anticipating what lay ahead. "A broomstick pierced Sanju's eye, causing unbearable pain," said Dr Chodhari.

While Sanju was rushed to a local doctor and given first aid to stop bleeding, his parent's were asked to take expert opinion after the child continued to remain in great pain, and started getting fever.

"When the parents got the child to us, his right eye didn't have any vision. The stick had ruptured the cornea and hit the lens membrane leading to cataract formation. In his right eye, he could only perceive light in one direction. We decided to take him up for surgery at the earliest to save his vision as there was infection too," said Dr Chodhari.

Under general anaesthesia, doctors from Nanavati's ophthalmologist department fixed the cataract and sutured the cornea. "We have replaced the lens and cleared the mild blood clots. He is now recovering well and can recognise faces. Within a month, he will regain complete vision," said Dr Chodhari.

Doctors say he was plain lucky, which may not be the case with others resorting to such acts. Experts say parents should remain alert and keep telling their kids from time to time: Don't try this at home.