

New year's 1st cadaver donor saves three lives

dna correspondent @dna

Mumbai witnessed first cadaver donation of 2016 after a 21-year-old brain-dead patient's family agreed to donate his organs at Nanavati hospital on Monday.

According to the Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee (ZTCC), the family's decision has given a new lease of life to three Mumbaikars — two end-stage kidney patients and one end-stage liver patient.

The donor, who fell from an express train that was coming to Mumbai from Vapi, was admitted with severe head injuries at Nanavati hospital on January 6. The hospital tried to revive him but he was declared brain-dead on Monday. His family was successfully approached for organ donation.

After witnessing a rough patch in last few years, Mumbai made a history with 100% rise in cadaver donation in 2014 with a total of 41 donations. However, in 2015, the city saw only 42 donations, which was way below ZTCC's expectations.

As transplant is the only cure for patients with organ

failure, experts feel public hospitals should also start recognising brain deaths and converting them into donors.

Dr Sujata Patwardhan, general secretary, ZTCC, said: "We're hoping to do much better than 2015. We are analysing the lacunae in last year's cadaver donations to see if there's scope for improvement." Of late, public hospitals had picked up on notifying brain deads, she added.

"Notifications of brain dead patients have increased in

Organs of hope

public hospitals which is a good sign. We had as many as 57 brain dead notifications but only three cadaver donations happened," said Patwardhan. She further said that in most of the cases, the cadaver donor was not suitable for organ transplant.

The state health ministry too is planning workshops and training sessions to improve cadaver donations at public hospitals. The trend of cadaver donations has always been uneven in the city.

In 2012, there were 27 cadaver donations, while in 2013 there were 24. In 2014, the city saw 41 donations that benefited 107 people.