

Docs stop woman's heart to remove cyst

Priyanka Vora

■ priyanka.vora@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: In a rare surgery, doctors stopped a woman's heart for two hours so that they could remove a 9-cm-wide cyst that was growing behind the organ. Doctors said the heart is stopped only for heart bypass surgeries and rarely, for cyst removal.

The 51-year-old Vile Parle resident was finding it difficult to breathe and swallow food for three years, said doctors, adding, they were unable to diagnose the reason.

However, a CT scan examination six months ago showed a cyst had grown behind her heart, compressing her food pipe and wind pipe, making it difficult for her to eat and breathe.

The woman was also suffering from extra-pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), which made the surgery far more challenging, said doctors, adding that the TB had affected the lymph nodes, which regulate the body's immunity.

"This kind of cyst is commonly seen in young children," said Dr Rohit Shahapurkar, cardiac surgeon, Nanavati Hospital, Vile Parle, who operated on the woman on Friday.

"A bronchogenic cyst — a balloon-like structure filled with fluids — had grown behind her heart and was compressing vital organs. Hence, all the major blood

vessels arising from the heart and coming to heart had to be dissected to remove the cyst," said Dr Shahapurkar, adding, "The patient was put on a heart-lung machine to help her breathe."

The heart-lung machine performs the work of the organs,

which are stopped from functioning during a surgery.

While the surgery was concluded in four hours, doctors stopped her heart for almost two hours.

Dr Shahapurkar opened the patient's chest and dissected all

the major blood vessels of the heart, including the aorta — the largest artery in the body — to reach the cyst.

"Removing the cyst was challenging, as it was adherent to the food pipe, wind pipe and the heart. We have successful-

ly removed the cyst though a small portion was left behind as removing it could have injured the food pipe," he said.

Doctors said that the patient is recuperating and is able to breathe comfortably after the surgery.

DOCTORS PERFORM RARE CYST REMOVAL SURGERY

CONDITION DIAGNOSED

A 51-year-old Vile Parle resident had bronchogenic — a condition which made it difficult for her to breathe and swallow for three years

She was also diagnosed with extra-pulmonary tuberculosis about six months ago

A CT scan six months ago revealed a fluid-filled cyst growing behind her heart, compressing her food pipe and wind pipe.

HOW THE SURGERY WAS PERFORMED

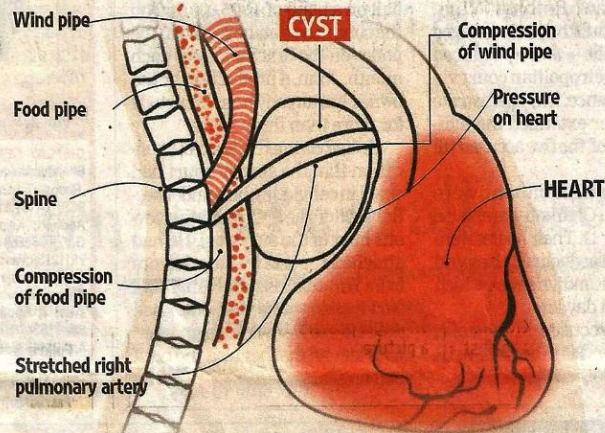
Doctors at Nanavati Hospital stopped her heart for almost two hours by putting her on a heart-lung machine while they removed the cyst

A cardiac surgeon dissected the major blood vessels of the heart and approached the cyst, which was stuck to the food and wind pipes

Once the cyst was removed, surgeons removed the heart-lung machine, restoring the function of the heart and lungs.

THE RESULT

The patient is now able to breathe and swallow without any difficulty



Removing the cyst was challenging, as it was adherent to the food pipe, wind pipe and the heart valve. We have successfully removed the cyst though a small portion was left behind as removing it could have injured the food pipe.

DR ROHIT SHAHAPURKAR, cardiac surgeon, Nanavati Hospital