

Successful laparoscopy radical cholecystectomy on an 80-year-old with malignant gall bladder tumour

KOLKATA: An 80-year-old woman suffering from gall bladder tumour was given a fresh lease of life by doctors in Kolkata. Laparoscopy radical cholecystectomy was conducted on Maya Mukherjee. The surgery was risky given the patient's age, her frail frame. In addition she is diabetic suffers from hypertension with gross worn out bones. Mukherjee had a good recovery after the surgery and is now back home.

Mukherjee was brought to the Fortis Hospital Kolkata with complaints of weakness, anorexia, weight loss, low back pain, abdominal discomfort and urinary symptoms, She was admitted under Dr Dibyendu Mukherjee. Medical investigations found that the patient had tumor in her gall bladder. Doctors suspected gallbladder cancer.

The best treatment option for the doctors was cholecystectomy which is cutting the gallbladder with tumor with 3 cm of liver wedge with radical node clearance from celiac axis blood vessel to around bile duct portal vein and hepatic artery. However an open surgery was out of question considering her poor general condition and poor lungs as explained and was speculated by chief anaesthetist Dr Sanjay Singh.

Therefore the only alternative was to let her die with an otherwise operable cancer. But then the doctors decided to try and save the patient with a procedure that they say is hardly ever done. That was to conduct the entire surgery by laparoscopy.

After rounds of grueling and meticulous planning by Dr Suddhasattwa Sen, doctors Singh and Mukherjee the team decided to go ahead laparoscopy radical cholecystectomy after consent from the family.

The medical team conducted the surgery through four small holes and completed the entire process within one hour and 15 minutes. The doctors saw that the blood loss the negligible and there was no need for blood transfusion. The patient had a quick recovery and was discharged from the hospital after four days of the surgery.

"Success of surgery on such a cancer that too at an 80-year-old with comorbidity and other health issues is extremely rare. Moreover success in a laparoscopy in those given conditions is almost unheard of," said Dr Suddhasattwa Sen.