

Apollo reveals a mighty heart, lends a ear to Iraqi patients

[Express News Service](#)

New Delhi, July 13: As her mother takes her photograph, 10-month-old Rasol Mohammad could hardly smile. Reason: Pain oozing out of the huge lump of vessels hanging on her left cheek. “It hurts her a lot. Sometimes she keep crying for whole day in pain,” Amal Mohammad, Rasol’s mother, says. But there’s hope for Rasol and many other Iraqi patients who had to suffer because of the lack of medical facilities in their worn-torn country.

Capital’s Indraprastha Apollo has come forward to treat these patients from Iraq. The doctors in the hospital have treated 80 patients till now suffering from varied problems, particularly congenital heart disease and hearing loss requiring cochlear implants. Of the total 80 patients, 34 are children between 10 months and 15 years of age. Twenty-four children have had cochlear implants and others have been treated for heart related ailments. The adult patients mainly suffer from cardiac, urology and orthopaedic problems and are undergoing treatment at Apollo.

“Most of the complications are consequences of the war,” says Dr Vikas Kohli, senior consultant, pediatric cardiology and congenital cardiac surgery unit at Apollo.

A six-year-old boy suffering from blockage in his heart, which prevented the circulation of blood, posed a challenge to doctors here. “We performed Intra-Cardiac Echo on the child. It’s a complex procedure,” says Dr Raja Joshi, senior consultant, pediatric cardiac surgeon.

Having undergone cochlear implant Jasam Mohammad, 4, tries to respond to the voice of his father — something his father has been longing for all these years. “Life had become standstill for us for all these years. We are hopeful that things

will improve now. Doctors here are good and we are all very happy with the treatment,” Mohammad, Jasam’s father, says.

“The children undergoing cochlear implants will have to undergo a three-phase treatment, including audiological training and speech therapy,” Dr Ameet Kishore, senior consultant, ENT, says.

With the situation back home deteriorating with every passing day, patients say that it was impossible to get any health care there and now they are happy that they are in safe hands.

“A delegation from Iraq came here in June and after seeing the facilities here, the patients started coming in batches. All paediatrics facilities under one roof are not available in any other hospitals,” Dr Anupam Sibal, Director, medical services, says.

“The hospital is a viable alternative to western hospitals largely because of our ability to deliver services at fraction of the costs overseas. The personalised care that we give is another draw for the patients,” Richard L Larison, managing director, Indraprastha Apollo, says.