

Healing touch for Iraqi kids



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Thirty-eight Iraqi children in need of cochlear implants, open heart surgeries and orthopaedic problems, will return hale and hearty to their home country after experiencing the much needed healing touch at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital here.

Most of the children are from places in and around Baghdad and are in the age group of 10 months to 18 years.

The hospital has also treated 52 adults suffering from similar problems on the request of a delegation from the Iraqi Health Ministry. The first batch of Iraqi children suffering from hearing impairment arrived here on June 1 for assessment and treatment.

Dr Raja Joshi, Senior Paediatric Cardiac Surgeon, told mediapersons here that six-year-old Mahmood is the third child to have undergone ICE (Intra Cardiac Eco) at Apollo, for a blockage in his heart.

Dr Vikas Kohli, Senior Consultant, Pediatric Cardiology said that one of the patients, Rasul, a ten months old girl from Baghdad, is suffering from Hemangioma, a condition that leads to uncontrolled growth of blood vessels. "We have started here on a two week course of steroids. The treatment involves closure of the feeder vessel."

Dr Kishore said that most of the children who have been given a cochlear implant are between three to seven years of age. He said the imported implants cost anything between Rs six to Rs nine lakh depending on the make and model the caregivers opt for. Apart from this, about Rs one to Rs two lakh is needed for surgery, postoperative mapping (programming of the implant), regular speech and hearing therapy that is fortunately available in Iraq.