

Rare surgery performed for hip, knee replacements

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Ahmedabad: While hip and knee replacement operations are very common nowadays, it's extremely rare when both are performed on the same patient successfully. This happened in the case of a 64-year-old retired government official at Jivraj Mehta Hospital recently who was suffering from a very rare form of arthritis known as ochronotic arthritis. The surgeon was Dr Ashutosh Mavalankar, consultant at the hospital.

"In our knowledge, this is the first case in India, and the third in the world where both hip and knee replacements have been successfully carried out in one patient suffering from alkaptonuria. We have sent the case to be reported in a medical journal," says Dr Mavalankar.

Alkaptonuria is a rare metabolic disorder which is genetically transmitted. In this disease, due to deficiency of a particular enzyme, certain amino acids can't be metabolised and get accumulated in the body as a brownish black substance called homogentisic acid, he explains.

This gets excreted in urine and sweat

making them black. The substance also gets deposited in the cartilage and leads to premature arthritis known as ochronotic arthritis. Alkaptonuria is an extremely rare disease, with incidence being one in a million, he adds.

The operation was challenging as the patient had severe deformities of both hips associated with soft bones due to osteoporosis

The elderly patient was crippled by arthritis and had severe affection of spine, both hip and knee joints. Due to this, he was barely able to walk and was more or less housebound. He suffered a fracture of the left hip without any injury or fall.

He was operated for replacement of both hip joints in the first stage. The operation was challenging as he had severe deformities of both hips associated with soft bones due to osteoporosis. Patient was later operated for replacement of both knee joints. Now, he can walk with a stick and also drive a car.