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Institute ties up with Tokyo College

NT Bureau

Chennai, Jan 24:

The Madras Institute of Nephrology at the Vijaya Health Centre has entered into an understanding with Tokyo Women's Medical College to undertake a new form of kidney transplantation at its centre here.

Nephrologists from the Tokyo Women's Medical College would train their counterparts at the Madras Institute of Nephrology to perform kidney transplantation across blood groups. At present in all most all hospitals in the country kidney transplantations are done only when the blood group between the patient and the donor matches.

Talking to reporters here yesterday Dr Ravichandran, director of the Madras Institute of Nephrology Department, said they had found the results of the transplantations done by the Japanese hospital across blood groups to be similar to the results of the blood groups-matched transplantation done elsewhere.

He said this new form of kidney transplantation would help a large number of people in the country waiting for kidney transplant. Around one lakh people in the country had registered at various hospitals in the country and had not been able to have transplant done as they had not got proper blood match, he said.

Explaining the new procedure, Dr Ravichandran said 'antibodies of the blood groups A and B are removed from the patients before the surgery by a procedure called Double Filtration Plasma Theresis. This procedure is done several times till the antibodies against the blood group disappear from the patient. Subsequently the kidney transplantation is done.

The cost of performing this new surgery would go up by 50 per cent', he said.

Dr Hiroshi Toma and Dr Kanzunari Tanabe of the Tokyo Women's Medical College who has performed around 1000 kidney transplants would teach the nephrologists at the Madras Institute of Nephrology.

Dr Toma, who is also specialised in mapping out the kidney tumour and removing only the tumour part, will train nephrologists at the Madras Institute of Nephrology to perform this kind of surgery.

At present, kidney tumour was treated by removing the kidney itself, Dr Ravichandran said.