

Press Clips :

Saturday – Monday, April 12 -14, 2014

Fortis Flt. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital, New Delhi :

The Times of India, April 14, 2014, Edition : Delhi; Size : 131 sq.cm.; Page : 2

3-year-old survives deadly snakebite

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: Last August, three-year-old Vivek was sleeping with his parents in a farmhouse in Chhatarpur. That night, a venomous snake—an Indian krait—crawled in from nowhere and buried its fangs into the child’s flesh. It was situation critical for the little one. Yet miraculously, he managed to pull through, after months of non-stop medical care.

Vivek comes from a BPL family and his parents didn’t have the resources to go for expensive medical care. Worse, they didn’t know that snakebites require urgent medical

attention and any delay could prove to be fatal. According to doctors treating him, Vivek’s parents took over two hours to bring him to Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj. By then, the boy had lost consciousness and was breathing with great difficulty.

The child was rushed to the emergency wing of the hospital. “He was not responding or breathing, and his heart rate was less than 60 beats per minute when he arrived here. This snake’s venom is neuro-toxic, and the delay increased toxicity and triggered respiratory failure. Vivek suffered from two cardiac arrests in the fol-



BEATING DEATH: Vivek

lowing 48 hours despite our best efforts. We thought he won’t make it,” said Dr Rahul Nagpal, director and head of the paediatrics department at the hospital.

For five days, there was no movement in the child and it

appeared that he was brain dead. But a brain scan showed “slow wave activity”, reviving hope. But there was a risk of multi-organ failure because of which a team of doctors was assembled.

In the third week, Vivek started showing signs of improvement. “There was spontaneous, intermittent blinking of the eye with light response,” said Dr Sapan Vinayak, in-charge of the paediatric ICU at the hospital, adding, “At present, the child is out of danger. He is on a liquid and semi-solid diet. He is moving all limbs and speaking a few words.”