

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Publication

## **Iraqi patient with rare genetic disorder gets new lease of life in India**

*Doctors at Fortis Hospital, Gurgaon conduct complex surgery*

*to remove duplicate body organs from woman turned away by International hospitals*

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016,** : Doctors at **Fortis Memorial Research Institute**, Gurgaon gave a new lease of life to a 27-year-old Iraqi woman recently. The patient was suffering from a rare genetic condition in which several vital body organs exist in duplicate. A team of four doctors led by **Dr Sanjay Gogoi, Director, Urology and Renal transplant**, carried out the rare and extremely complicated seven-hour surgical procedure on 18 April, 2016.

When she came to Fortis Memorial, Gurgaon for treatment, the team did not expect the fairly fit, fair and smiling 27-year-old to be waging a daily battle with life. However, after examining her and running a battery of tests and scans, doctors at FMRI found that several of her internal organs were present in duplicate. She had two urinary bladders with two urethras, two uterus, two vaginas and two small and large intestines. One of the colons in her body was opening in between the vaginas. This opening also resulted in fecal incontinence, causing great physical discomfort and repeated infections.

The patient was diagnosed as having **caudal duplication syndrome**, which is prevalent at birth in less than 1 per 100,000 cases. With only about 30 cases reported worldwide so far, the disorder is associated with partial or complete duplication of the spine and some other caudal structures such as urogenital and gastrointestinal tracts.

A management student in Baghdad, the patient had adapted to a strict lifestyle in order to pursue her dreams. As she had no control on her second colon, she wore diapers all the time and ate sparingly. She had gone to several hospitals in Turkey and Germany for treatment, however due to risks of surgical complications, doctors had denied operating on her. In India, at Fortis, she underwent comprehensive radiological and endoscopic evaluation, following which a reconstructive surgery was conducted. The patient, thereafter, made a full recovery without any complications after all these years of misery.

“It was a difficult case, where genitoplasty and colocolonic anastomosis were performed on the woman through the 7-hour-long surgery. We were able to establish a connection between the two large intestines and completely remove the ‘vaginal-colon’. External and internal genitalia were reconstructed and her reproductive organs were saved, even enabling her to bear children in future. A multidisciplinary approach and modern urological reconstructive techniques allowed us to undertake such complex reconstructions, previously thought not possible”, said **Dr Sanjay Gogoi**.

“FMRI has pioneered several complex surgeries over the years. This was one of the most difficult and challenging cases for our team. The fact that it gave a new life to a patient from across the continent is most rewarding and provides hope to numerous patients in other countries to get the best in world class treatments at Fortis hospitals in India,” said **Dr Simmardeep Singh Gill, Zonal Director, Fortis Memorial Research Institute.**

**About Fortis Memorial Research Institute**

*Fortis Memorial Research Institute is the flagship hospital of Fortis Healthcare Limited. It is a multi-super speciality, quaternary care hospital with a comprehensive team of clinicians and patient care programmes, supported by advanced technology and medical research solutions. Set on a spacious campus with a potential bed capacity of 1,000 beds, this ultra-modern facility utilises and showcases some of the latest technologies in use in world class health care. Some of the milestone technologies at the hospital include amongst the first pilot project for precision Radio-surgery in the world, integrated operating and procedure rooms, digitized critical care cubicles, advanced Cath-labs, transplant rooms, endoscopy suites, private birthing centres, a state-of-the-art radiation wing and a stem cell lab to name a few facilities. A range of thoughtful services and health facilities for patients and their attending family include several Art ‘n’ Health programmes to recuperate, a mini theatre to de-stress, retail therapy outlets for immediate needs and a food court providing a choice of dining options to replenish energies.*

**About Fortis Healthcare Limited**

*Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. The company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 54 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and 306 diagnostic centres. In a global study of the 30 most technologically advanced hospitals in the world, its flagship, the Fortis Memorial Research Institute’ (FMRI), was ranked No.2, by ‘topmastersinhealthcare.com, and placed ahead of many other outstanding medical institutions in the world.*

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