

Kolhapur man undergoes rare double surgery in city hospital

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MUMBAI, MAY 18

KOLHAPUR resident Shankar Patil, 59, suffering from a rare vocal cord tumour and triple vessel cardiac disease, found solace in a city-based hospital months after he was turned away from hospitals in Belgaum and Pune, refusing to perform a surgery after gauging the complications involved.

Patil, a retired labourer in Kolhapur's sugar factory, was suffering from dysphonia for twelve years. This lent his voice hoarseness and impaired the vocal cords. He also had breathing problems.

Patil's wife Anuradha said that with poor finances, his dysphonia problem could not be treated for several years.

"We had approached doctors for the hoarseness in his voice, but they said he might lose his voice completely if complications arose. So we dropped the idea of undergoing any operation," she said.

"I was later diagnosed with over 90 per cent blockage in the three major arteries in a Belgaum hospital. But they could not perform any surgery and asked me to visit Pune for medical advice," said Patil.

He added that he was shocked to learn about a tumour developing in his vocal chord after he consulted a Pune-based hospital.

"The doctors in Pune agreed to operate on me to remove blockages in my arteries. But they discovered that they could not put the anaesthesia tube through my trachea be-



SHANKAR PATIL

cause there was a tumour there. The surgery was cancelled," he said.

In March this year, Patil was referred to cardio-thoracic surgeon Dr Nilesh Maru in Fortis hospital (Mulund) who planned to perform a double surgery to first create a hole for his blocked airway, then remove the tumour and perform a coronary artery by-pass on Patil.

"We created a hole below the tumour in trachea (called tracheostomy) and inserted the endotracheal tube from there. That way, his tumour remained untouched. There was a risk that he might either lose his voice or the endotracheal tube will have to be placed permanently," said Maru.

ENT surgeon Dr Sanjay Bhatia, who first removed the tumour from Patil's vocal chords, said, "His tumour was a rare kind called plasmacytoma. We removed it through microsurgery." Maru said, "I had to perform by-pass on five vessels in his heart. We were scared of the impact on his voice, but four days after the surgery, we removed the endotracheal tube and his voice was clearer."

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