Heart-Lungs Transplants on Top

A scientific officer at Kalpakkam, 39-year-old Deivanayaki, cannot stop talking when she is given the mic to describe her ordeal before December 14, 2014, and the personal care and hospitality of Apollo Hospitals after.

There is a reason for her chirpiness. In 2003, she discovered that she had a major lung problem and from being active and healthy, she began to regularly gasp for breath, even if she spoke for a minute. Her relatives were shocked and they frequented many a hospital to confirm if the diagnosis was correct. But now, after a complex heart and lung transplant at Apollo hospitals, her happiness knows no bounds. “My daughter asks me if I can talk to her for hours together or play with her,” she beams.
In the last 18 months, Apollo hospitals has performed six such complex surgeries each of which require specialists like pulmonologists, cardio-thorasics, anesthesists and transplant experts at work for more than 7-8 hours. Five of them have been successful; the survival rate is higher than global standards, costing 2.5 percent of what it would cost in USA. “This is also 9 percent of all such surgeries done across the world. We are delivering similar, if not superior, results at a fraction of the international cost,” said Dr Sunder T, who is a cardiothoracic and transplant surgeon at Apollo.

Prathap C Reddy, chairman of the Apollo group, said that India is ready to become the global healthcare destination. “We have outstanding facilities and a committed team,” he said. The doctors also stressed on early referral in cases of end-stage heart of lung diseases. Despite an improving transplant scenario in the city, the awareness about timing of referral is still low. The timing of referral plays a crucial role in the end stage diseases giving consultants ample time to rectify the problem before it reaches the end stages where there is a dire need for heart and double lung transplant.

The hospital has also successfully operated on 67-year old-Hanifa, who is the second oldest patient in the world to get a heart and lung transplant. “Today is my first birthday of a second life,” he beamed.