

Hindustan Times

Doctors' haste led to driver's death?

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New Delhi, September 4

MUKESH KUMAR, the Blueline driver who died on Tuesday, had been brutally beaten up by a dozen persons. Was it right, then, for doctors at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital to declare him 'fit' after a 10-minute examination?

Medical experts feel he might have been alive today had the hospital not discharged him in haste.

"In such a situation, it is wrong to discharge a patient simply after tendering first aid. Any person who has been severely assaulted should be kept under observation for at least six hours before being released," said a senior AIIMS doctor.

"Most internal injuries surface after sometime. Even in case of car accidents where one passenger has died, we keep the co-passengers under observation," he adds.

Doctors suspect Mukesh died of internal bleeding of the abdomen or the chest. "Most trauma deaths occur due to lack of oxygen or a drop in blood pressure. If oxygen supply and blood pressure are kept in check, the patient can survive till his problem is diagnosed and proper treatment starts," says Dr Talit Halim, former head of emergency at Max Healthcare.

While Mukesh's autopsy report is still awaited, both hospital authorities and the police are silent about the real cause of his death.

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