

Docs remove lung, save TB patient's life

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New Delhi: For 10 long years, Sanjeev lived with partially damaged lungs. It seemed he would die any day. But today he can think of life ahead and even marriage, thanks to a successful surgery conducted by doctors at Max Hospital, Saket.

According to I S Virdi, senior consultant and chief cardio-thoracic surgeon, the patient, Sanjeev, had a history of pulmonary tuberculosis and recurrent blood vomiting.

"His left lung was completely destroyed. We admitted him under the Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Sciences (CTVS) section and performed pneumonectomy, a complex surgery that involved the removal of his affected lung," said Virdi. He said that excellent intra-operative conditions were achieved by stopping aeration to the left lung.

According to Dr Ajay Lall, director of the respiratory medicine and senior consultant critical care, the patient had a history of pulmonary TB. "He was diagnosed with pulmonary TB when he was 24-years-old. Due to recurrent blood vomiting he could not work and he became very weak. He was mostly on drugs for TB but surgery could not be done due to poor physical condition which led to further deterioration. If this surgery had not been done on time, the patient would have certainly died," he said.

Sanjeev, who works for a cable company, said he was grateful to the doctors who saved him. "I never thought I would live long. Nonetheless, I never gave up hope. My employer paid for all my surgeries because no relative came forward to help," he said.