

Spinal deformity patients get a new lease of life

SVIMS conducts 40 surgeries free of cost for the poor under TTD's Pranadana scheme

BVENKAT SANDEEP

TIRUPATI: Medical interventions by Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), further augmented with monetary help from TTD's Pranadana scheme, have provided a new lease of life for 40 patients suffering from various spinal deformities.

The devastating condition, associated with various neurological problems, physical disfigurement and social stigma, was rectified 'free-of-cost' for poor patients, falling under the scheme, by the hospital's Neurosurgery Department. SVIMS Director and Vice Chancellor T.S. Ravikumar on Friday, elucidated on the details of the programme and opined that the 'spinal deformity surgeries' have made a huge impact on those suffering from problems such as scoliosis and kyphosis (deformities in the spine).

Quality treatment

"The condition, either developmental or acquired, affects people from all age



SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor T.S. Ravikumar and Neurology Department Head B.C.M. Prasad look on as V.V. Ramesh Chandra explains the 'spinal deformity surgery' in Tirupati on Friday.

group with the majority being children. It would not only impact the patient, but also the well being of a family.

However, by the grace of Lord Venkateswara and TTD's Pranadana Scheme, we could operate and offer quality treatment for 40 patients, including children in the age group of 11-15 years," he added.

Dr. Ravikumar said that

of highly skilled doctors, costly implants and continuous neuro-monitoring has made it possible, here at SVIMS," he asserted.

Three-pronged strategy

Pointing out to the role played by healthcare institutions in improving the health burden of the population, i.e., one patient at a time, Dr. Ravikumar highlighted a three-pronged strategy in improving the quality and affordability of healthcare. "Firstly, healthcare institutions should focus on long-term goals on how to create an impact on the lives of the patients.

The second aspect would be creating manpower and exploring new avenues of treatment.

Lastly, all the efforts, put forward by the institution, should result in the 'Hub-Hur' philosophy, wherein best brains from across the world would collaborate and share their expertise, so as to provide quality healthcare," he said.

surgeries, which would typically vary from Rs.10-15 lakh in corporate hospitals, were carried out with the help of experts from Indian Spinal Injury Centre and SVIMS Neurosurgery Department led by B.C.M. Prasad and V.V. Ramesh Chandra. "Deformity surgeries are done in very few centres across the country. Presence of sophisticated equipment, a dedicated team