

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SRIRAM CHANDRA BHANJA MEDICAL COLLEGE, CUTTACK

First time TRANSAXILLARY LAPAROSCOPIC HEMITHYROIDECTOMY

by

Dr. Manash Ranjan Sahoo

Associate Professor Surgery, S.C.B Medical College, Cuttack, Odisha.
Consultant Minimal Access Surgeon



● PAINLESS TREATMENT

Boon for goitre patients: Minimal invasive surgery

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FOR the people suffering from goitre but unwilling to go under the surgeon's scalpel due to the painful procedure and the ugly scars left behind, minimal invasive surgery has come as a boon. And, SCB Medical College and Hospital has pioneered the move to bring advanced medical technology to the larger sections of the people.

In the first of its kind surgery in the State, doctors at the SCBMCH have successfully removed a tumour from the neck of a 20-year-old girl using laparoscopy procedure. The girl had goitre swelling in the lower front neck and doctors of the Department of Surgery decided to conduct the laparoscopic transaxillary hemithyroidectomy on her.

The team, led by Associate Professor Dr Manash Ranjan Sahoo, cut three small holes in the right arm pit and created space by using carbon dioxide to reach the 4 cm tumour and remove it. The tumour was extracted through the small holes and the patient was discharged within three days.

Even though goitre, a thyroid disorder caused by iodine deficiency, is highly prevalent in the State, the fear of painful surgery and the deep ugly scars left on the neck has prevented people to seek medical help in early stages. As a result, the tumours grow large and the sight of people with glands measuring 20 to 30 cm dangling from the neck is not uncommon.

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According to Dr Sahoo, incidence of goitre is assumed to be around 10-12 per cent of population, particularly in the tribal and rural pockets. Highest number of goitre cases in the country has been reported in Sundargarh district with almost 40 per cent suffering from thyroid disorders.

"Women between the age group of 20 and 40 come under high risk category. As a typical goitre swelling not responding to thyroid suppressants needs surgery and the conventional practice is to cut the neck open and remove it, they are hesitant. Laparoscopy leaves no scars on the neck but only small holes in the armpit which are not visible. Moreover, the procedure is almost painless with quick recovery time. These advantages aside, the cost of only around Rs 7,000 as against at least five times more outside will be of immense help to the poor patients," he says.

The team has also adopted the single incision laparoscopic surgery (SILS) for the first time in the Government hospital set up in Orissa to get rid of a diseased appendix in a patient. The patient Kanhu Charan Sahoo (24) was operated on through a single hole in the belly button and the appendix removed. SILS can be used for varied surgeries from gall bladder, kidney, hysterectomy, gastric bypass, splenectomy, colon, hernia and liver resections.



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