

Transfusion-Free Life After Bone Marrow Transplant Now Possible

Nikhil Berwal, a resident of Delhi, was suffering from thalassemia major (TM) since childhood as both his parents were thalassemia minor.

He used to manage his condition with regular blood transfusions, but after marriage he started exploring options to put a stop to it in the hope of preventing the future generation from inheriting the disorder.

After consultations with the experts at BLK Super Speciality Hospital, he decided to go for the transplant.

After investigations, he was admitted for allogenic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation as stem cells from his brother's marrow matched perfectly, the doctors said at a press conference. "Given the age of the patient, it was definitely a high-risk challenging case with very less success rate," said Dharma Choudhary who supervised the team of doctors who performed the transplant.



"Thalassemia Major shows as severe form of anaemia necessitating lifelong blood transfusions and iron chelation. Bone marrow transplantation (BMT) is the only cure, but non-availability of a suitable HLA (human leukocyte antigen)-matched donor, inherent high risk of procedure and high cost restricts its practicality,"

- Dr. Dharma Choudhary
Sr. Consultant & Director -
BLK Centre for Bone Marrow Transplant