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# 2 Pak kids get free surgery

By YOJNA GUSAI

New Delhi, June 9: Two Pakistani children — Danial and Zakhira will be carrying back home heart full of memories of India. Heart patients since birth, they were admitted in one of the capital's hospital where they were treated free of cost.

These two came to India with holes in their heart along with multiple disorders.

Both were suffering from heart disorder since birth and were told by Pakistani doctors that they need to get operated as their heart

valve was also defective. Admitted at Max Devki Heart and Vascular Institute, these children were operated by a team of surgeons, led by Dr Anil Bhan.

The operation was done free of cost and the cost of the trip and the surgery was taken care by a voluntary organisation and the hospital authorities under the Gift of Life Project.

"Both children when came here were in a very critical shape, specially four-year-old Danial who had two holes along with a defected valve," said Dr Nischal Pandey, cardiac

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rehabilitation specialist. Both parents had lost hope that their children will ever be able to lead a normal healthy life.

Hailing from Faisalabad,

Danial was not only pale but was visibly dehydrated when he was admitted in the hospital. According to his father, Ayaaz he was not only heavily underweight but used to get easily exhausted.

But it were Zakhira and her family, who hail from Baluchistan, who found problem in communicating as their language was totally different from that of Danial's.

The hospital authorities had to finally depend on another patient from Afghanistan to communicate with the family.

"Their mother tongue

was pashtun, which no one in this entire hospital was aware of. Initially we had a tough time in understanding and were totally dependent on the case sheet sent by doctors from Pakistan," said Dr Pandey.

Operated few days back, both children showed good signs of recuperation and their support systems were taken off on the same day the operation was conducted.

After the surgery, two children were treated as the guests of the hospital and were staying in the hospital's guest house.

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