

DOCTORS MAKE IT RIGHT FOR BABY

Surgeons correct a rare birth defect in a 48-day-old baby where his organs were in the wrong position.

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Doctors at Batra Hospital achieved a rare feat when they successfully operated on an infant to correct a birth defect in the heart and other organs. The boy from Guwahati was born with his vital organs in a laterally inverse position and a hole in his heart.

The baby, Hirak Jyoti, had his liver, spleen and three-lobed lung on the left side as opposed to their usual right-side position. The infant's heart was in the correct left position but had a hole and improper arterial connections.

This medical condition — where the chest and abdominal organs are arranged in the exact opposite position — happens to 1 in about 8,500 people. As this arrangement, called situs inversus, is a perfect mirror image, the relationship between the organs doesn't change, so functional problems rarely occur. However, in Jyoti's case, the heart was on the left side and the other organs had shifted positions leading to medical complications.

The boy was just 48 days old when he was operated upon on May 5. "It was a challenging surgery because of the baby's age and wrong positioning

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of the organs," said Dr Anil Bhan, who led the doctors who operated on the boy. "He is one of the youngest to have undergone this procedure in the world." The surgery was quite complex and required a lot of expertise and strict post-operative care. It required diverting the flow of vessels carrying impure blood and pure blood to the pulmonary artery and aorta, said Dr Viresh Mahajan, a paediatric cardiologist, who evaluated Jyoti's condition.

Jyoti was hospitalised in Guwahati after repeated chest infections. He was suspected to have complex congenital defects and was referred to Delhi.



A hale and hearty Hirak Jyoti after his successful operation to correct his birth defect. Hirak was born with most of his vital organs in an laterally inverse position.