

RARE HEART SURGERY PERFORMED ON WOMAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
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In a rare incident, a high risk Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVR) procedure, which is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that repairs the valve without removing the damaged valve was performed on a 79-year-old lady at Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre (SRMC) recently.

Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), a non-surgical procedure that uses a catheter to place a small structure called a stent to open up narrowed blood vessels in the heart was used to perform the high-risk surgery performed for the first time by SRMC in South India.

The patient suffering from hypertension had a severely diseased heart valve with significant disease in major left coronary blood vessel with decreased heart pumping function.

The woman had a stent in her right coronary artery in 2004, which was diagnosed to have severe aortic stenosis (valve that separates left heart from aorta) four years ago. As

the patient was not willing for open-heart surgery, she was on medical therapy for heart failure symptoms.

She was taken to SRMC in an acute heart failure status with elevated cardiac biomarkers suggestive of a type of heart attack with decreased heart pumping function.

After initial medical stabilisation, it was found that she had severe left coronary artery system disease with significant amount of deposition of body tissues. Her surgical risk score showed a mortality of 9-10 per cent before surgery for combined artery bypass grafting and surgical aortic valve replacement. Considering high risk of surgery, TAVR with PCI procedure was finalised.

After the initial balloon dilation of aortic valve to decrease the gradient across the valve, PCI procedure was performed successfully. All tubes were removed and incision was closed using suture-based technology.

After being observed in ICU for two days, the patient is recovering successfully.