

Conference to discuss embalming techniques

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Stiff and fragile cadavers preserved in sub-minimal temperatures at morgues dipped in cancer-causing chemicals may no longer vex medicos and surgical interns at medical schools as doctors will come together to discuss advanced embalming techniques using safe chemicals at the conference of society of clinical anatomists at Sri Ramachandra University on Thursday.

A team of embalming technicians from Australia and Japan will perform hands-on demonstration on methods that do not require formalin tanks.

At present, anatomy departments use concentrated formalin to embalm dead for dissection purposes. "They are stored

in large tanks of 2500 litres formalin. These bodies become rigid and are frozen at about -24°C. It may not be easy for surgeons to use them for surgical demonstrations. Once they are put on the table for dissection, they last no more than six hours. They will have to be completely discarded," said Dr T Vijay Sagar, head of department of anatomy, Sri Ramachandra Medical University.

DISCUSSION TODAY

Several developed countries are discouraging use of toxic formalin and have been looking for better ways for judicious use of cadavers. "The tissue consistency with the new chemicals is soft and it provides an almost life-like scenario for training purposes," Dr Vijay Sagar said. The amount of formalin will be reduced by about 30% to 4% in the new technique.