

STATE-OF-THE-ART TREATMENT FOR NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AT KMCH

Kovai Medical Center and Hospital (KMCH) possesses state-of-the art technology for early detection and prevention of neurological disorders and strokes.

In today's day and age, brain attacks have emerged as the third leading cause of death worldwide, after cancer and heart attacks. A brain attack or stroke, also known as a cerebrovascular accident, is the rapid loss of brain functions due to a disturbance in the blood supply to the brain. Early detection is the key when it comes to treating brain attacks and the victim needs to be brought to the hospital for treatment as quickly as possible.

"The World Health Organization (WHO) has coined the term FAST, referring to Facial, Arm Weakness, Speech difficulty and Time to Act, to help detect and enhance responsiveness to a stroke victim's needs," says Dr V Arul Selvan, consultant neurologist at KMCH. "As over one million neurons die each minute, treatment of stroke needs to be immediate, and tablets can function only as secondary preventive measures," he stresses.

The most common symptoms leading to a brain attack are diabetes, high blood pressure,



Dr V Arul Selvan

smoking, and high levels of cholesterol. While these attacks were a common feature among the older population, it is surprising to see many youngsters coming in for treatment in the past few years, a result of the fast-changing lifestyles. "We get patients in their 30's and 40's suffering from paralytic attacks, due to their sedentary lifestyles," Dr Arul Selvan adds.

"We have a clot retraction device, the only one in the city, through which two of our

patients have recovered significantly," the doctor says proudly.

Another common neurological disorder is epilepsy, especially among infants and the elderly. Epilepsy is a diverse and common set of neurological disorders characterized by seizures. "KMCH has specialized procedures, like the Electroencephalogram (EEG), 3T MRI scans and an Epilepsy Surgery Program to evaluate the internal epilepsy," Dr Arul Selvan points out. The third common disorder is Parkinson's disease. A pacemaker implantation called Deep Brain Stimulation in the brain the first of its kind in Coimbatore. Several patients have benefited from this treatment.

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